

# Equipment to Carry When 4WDDriving

## **MUST have:**

***If you do not have these items then you should not be heading off road.***

1. Recovery points front and rear of the vehicle. These should be proper rated recovery points and not just tie-down brackets for shipping.
2. Basic 4WD driving skills – know how to put your vehicle in 4WD, how to approach obstacles and how to get yourself out of trouble if you get stuck. It is highly recommended that the driver (and navigator) undertake a driver training course.
3. Suitable jack – make sure it will lift the vehicle, can be used on rough ground and will fit under the vehicle with a flat tyre (many jacks that come with the vehicle are inadequate in the bush). Practice using it on rough ground. Include a jacking plate (e.g. thick ply) to put under the jack to stop it sinking in soft ground. A high lift jack is not necessary. A good hydraulic bottle jack may be best.
4. Wheel nut brace for removing wheel nuts when changing tyres. Check that the one that comes with the vehicle is good quality and works – many are no good and don't fit!
5. Shovel. Long handle is best. Use for clearing under a bogged vehicle, digging a toilet hole in bush, working camp fires etc.
6. Sturdy leather gloves – protect hands during recovery operations, collecting fire wood, changing wheels, around the fire etc.
7. First aid kit and first aid manual (and knowledge to use it) in case .....
8. Adequate water and food supplies for the trip and as an emergency supply in case you get stranded.
9. UHF radio for convoy communications. Wagga4WDClub uses channel 10 (the designated off road channel). A good hand held could be used but a wired in unit is better.
10. Basic tool kit of spanners, screw drivers etc suitable for your vehicle. Include tapes, glues etc.
11. Adequate fuel for the expected journey or distance to the next refuel point.

## **SHOULD have:**

***Including these items enhances your 4WDDriving experience and reduces your reliance on other people.***

1. A quality snatch strap for vehicle recovery. Suggest 8,000 – 8,500 kg breaking strain. Club members are expected to use their own recovery equipment if they get stuck
2. Sturdy bag or canvas to drape over the snatch strap during recovery for safety in case the strap breaks.
3. Two rated bow shackles that will fit the recovery points on your vehicle – suggest 4.75 tonne rating.

4. Tyre air pressure gauge and good quality heavy duty compressor with the capacity to pump up 4WD tyres. It is good to adjust tyre pressure to suit the driving conditions and it is best not to rely on other people. Make sure the gear is readily accessible.
5. Suitable off road tyres – e.g. All Terrain light truck tyres or Mud Terrain (for tougher tracks). Most new 4WD vehicles come with Highway Terrain tyres which do not stand up to rough tracks.
6. Navigation aids – e.g. maps of the area, GPS, compass, etc – it's handy to know where you are going – and how to find your way home again.
7. Fire extinguisher of a type suitable for electrical or fuel fires.
8. Suitable clothing and footwear. Remember conditions may change.
9. Small tarp – use for crawling under your vehicle, as a radiator blind for deep water crossings, emergency shelter etc.
10. Toilet paper for emergencies in the bush. Remember ALL human waste must be buried!

### **NICE to have.**

1. Axe or chainsaw (illegal to carry in National parks) to clear fallen trees and to cut fire wood.
2. Spare oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, radiator hoses, fan belts etc.
3. Camping gear – so that you can enjoy the delights of bush camping.
4. Spare fuel, air and oil filters.

### **OTHER TIPS**

1. It is safer and more enjoyable to travel in a small group with other people / vehicles.
2. Be careful with packing – heavy items forward and low in the vehicle.
3. Make sure gear is well secured so that it does not fly around on rough tracks etc.
4. Do not carry too much – weight is your enemy.
5. Make sure your vehicle is in good condition and serviced.
6. Check that everything works before a trip.
7. For longer expeditions into remote areas, a much more comprehensive list of “must” and “should” items is required.
8. If you are unsure, ask an experienced club member.

**John Kent** Training Coordinator. *See you on a track ... somewhere.*