



MEDIA RELEASE

4WDiving Drives Caravan Industry

In front of many caravans and camper trailers on the road today will be a 4WDive vehicle as more and more people want to venture off the beaten track.

There are models of caravans being produced for off road needs and you can travel in surprising style. From the pop top and off road models to the luxury tourer, caravans now have some standard features that once would have been considered luxuries, such as air-conditioning, TV antenna and microwave are almost the norm.

Separate shower and toilet, slide out sections, dishwashers and satellite dishes are must-have items for those who want to go on the road for an extended time and want comfort and good communications.

For families, the easy-to-manage smaller caravan is a very cost effective way to travel around the country and an ideal way to make friends and enjoy new experiences.

For those who like to be closer to the ground but comfortable, camper trailers are now popular with all ages. They are suitable for on and off road holidays, however over 90% of camper trailer sales in WA are off road versions.

Some manufacturers produce what is called 'hard floor models', which don't touch the ground and 'soft floor versions' that are very much like a tent but allows you to sleep off the ground.

Andrew Fardon, owner of Off Road Equipment, lives his work and constantly tests out his camper trailers – the Cub and Pioneer off roaders.

This year he has been to the Great Victoria Desert, the Woodlines 100 kms north east of Norseman, Karijini, Exmouth, Millstream, Kalbarri, Esperance, Albany, Augusta and Albany – and he is heading off to Tasmania at Christmas.

With all that experience he knows what is important when preparing to go on the road – and that means the caravan or camper trailer, not just the tow vehicle.

“ At holiday time I can't tell you how often I see mum (and the kids) sitting on the side of the road with the boat trailer or caravan while dad is missing with the car – off to get a caravan or trailer tyre repaired!” said Andrew.

You have to service them in the same way you do the car or 4WD. Then check:

- You have the correct towing gear and that the car is rated for the caravan, including the load.

- The towbar is Australian Design Regulation (ADR) compliant
- The car suspension is good enough
- The weight distribution is even
- The joints that need greasing are greased
- There are no cracks in the chassis
- Tyres are in good condition, as they possibly have not been used in a while
- Your brakes – these days you can have a range of types and extras, such as electric brakes, hydraulic over ride, and there is a new system, Sensa Brake, which reads the pressure of the foot on the pedal enabling you to drive it more like a normal car.

If you are going off road the most important things to get right are your communications, First Aid, recovery set up and tyre repair.

If you would like more information, give Andrew a call at ORE on 9317 2344.

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