

Tips for 4 x 4 vehicle use:

It's obvious from the condition of some of the steep inclines on the Reserve that many people are unaware of the potential of their vehicles and don't utilise this to their advantage. Here are some tips for 4 x 4 usage:

- Keep the front wheel hubs (if lockable), always in the "lock" position while on the Reserve. When you approach a steep stony section of road just slip the 4 x 4 lever into 4-wheel drive while you are moving - once through the rough section, you can change back.
- Save your breaks, go down steep slopes in 1st gear using the engine compression to slow you down and just gently touch the break as required. This will also assist in saving the road.
- Avoid "fat takkies". In our area, the rigid walled "universal" type tyre is the best and gives the least problems with punctures.
- If you own an old Landrover, always carry brake and clutch fluid. The rubber seals on the master and slave cylinders don't like to stand for long periods and as a result perish prematurely. Kept topped up with brake fluid however, you will be able to use both clutch and brakes for a few days after which you can have it professionally repaired.
- Check that battery terminals are free of erosion and oxidation.
- Don't always believe the fuel gauge, especially on older Landrovers. "E" can sometimes indicate enough and "F" can indicate finished. Many of these vehicles have tanks with protection plates welded to the main tanks. These welds are usually the site of severe leaks.
- Check your spare wheel is inflated and that the wheel spanner fits the wheel nuts. Also check that your jack works.
- The in-line fuse on your radio power lead can oxidise where the fuse makes contact with the power cable.
- Check the earth connections.
- When using your spotlights keep your headlights dim, this will help save your battery and puts less strain on the charging system.
- Keep a liter bottle of water handy in your vehicle for leaky radiators.
- Don't forget a fire extinguisher is very important, keep one in an easily accessible area of your vehicle.
- When leaving vehicles for any length, disconnect one of the battery terminals.