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Round the World Charity 'Drive n' Dive' Reaches Halfway Mark

5 June 2006

After two years' planning, and thousands of miles of driving and scuba diving, the group of four friends travelling round the world for CARE have passed their half-way point.

Over the course of a year and a half, Martin Pitwood, Max Smith and Alex and Maz Towns, known collectively as Overland-Underwater, are raising money for international aid agency CARE International, by undertaking a challenging journey of 65,000km, driving from the UK to New Zealand.

Their journey started in the UK back in August of 2005, and they have since have passed through countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as they make their way down to Australia and finally New Zealand. Throughout the course of their trip, the team will have visited 26 countries, before arriving in New Zealand in February 2007.

The Overland-Underwater team have chosen to support CARE International, and they are doing this by donating all money raised throughout their trip to the charity. This decision arose from the team's desire to give something back to the people and the countries that they are visiting throughout their journey, and through an appreciation and support of CARE's work.



The Overland-Underwater team driving through Pakistan with Dr Mansur, a member of the 4x4 Offroaders Club of Karachi

"...we feel that CARE takes a practical approach to teaching people how to utilise their own resources and empower themselves

CARE International is one of the world's leading humanitarian organisations fighting global poverty. CARE has 60 years of experience delivering emergency aid in more than 70 developing countries, and helps poor communities create lasting solutions to their most threatening problems. CARE has significant expertise in disaster preparedness and response, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children.

The Overland-Underwater team have visited CARE projects in both Egypt and India, and are due to visit projects in Indonesia, when they arrive there. These trips to date have included

to becoming self-sufficient. They also have a long-term approach to many of their projects, which aim to strengthen local people's capacity for self-help."

- Overland-Underwater Team

visiting school projects such as the Udaan Residential School for Girls in rural Uttar Pradesh, India. This particular CARE project aims to educate girls from marginalised groups and provides learning opportunity to girls in the age range 10-14 years. Without project such as these, many children would certainly have no hope of an education.



The Overland-Underwater team on a mountain pass in Tibet

The team are also enthusiastic scuba divers, who dive regularly around the UK and abroad. As well as the excitement of driving a convoy of 4x4's halfway around the world, they are also visiting many popular and several more secluded dive destinations en-route, giving them the opportunity to experience some of the world's best scuba diving.

Their adventures to date have included being escorted through the Balochistan desert, in Western Pakistan by the 4x4 Offroaders Club of Karachi, taking them 6 days and nights through beautiful yet tough terrain to reach Karachi. The Offroaders Club continued to escort the team,

along with 16 Pakistani Army Commandoes, throughout much of their journey in Pakistan.

The group are currently halfway through their adventurous journey, and have already clocked over 42,000 miles in just under nine months. They are now beginning to gear up for their first significant water-crossing since crossing the English Channel back in August 2005, where they will cross from Malaysia into Indonesia, and from there, on to New Zealand.

If you would like more information about the team's activities and whereabouts, or would like to support Overland-Underwater on their adventures and to help raise money for CARE, please go to their website www.overland-underwater.com or [make a donation](#) to CARE.

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