



JEEP HOSPITAL

Each month Dr Jeep (Tony Whitehead) takes us through the trials and tribulations at his "Jeep Hospital", USA 4X4 Jeep Specialist in Melbourne, Victoria. Over 20 Jeeps are admitted weekly for servicing and suspension work through to differential, transmission and engine rebuilds. Dr Jeep explains the diagnosis, the corrective surgery and future care of these vehicles.



Tony Whitehead (Dr Jeep)



A neat 3 inch lifted XJ with 31 inch tyres 18x5 inch alloys, wide flares and custom bar work

"Jips" in Bali

We'll its not all work and no play for Dr Jeep. Last month I managed a getaway to the Indonesian island of Bali. While I was there I did some Jeep snooping for *Jeep Action*. Being a RHD country it reminded me a lot of Australia way back, before Chrysler brought Jeeps back into Australia. All you could find then was plenty of tricked up FJ40 Toyotas but minimal CJs, MBs and an odd YJ or two. But Bali also has another side to its Jeeps, there were many odd creations I saw motoring and parked. Vehicles that started life as some version of a Japanese platform that was moulded Bali style to what they call a Jeep, or in their broken English, a jip.

It was also pretty funny seeing what appears to be genuine Jeep tyre covers on anything 4x4, they seemed to be everywhere. The Bali crew also had a good handle on modifying Daihatsu Rockys, I spotted quite a few very well presented ones.

There seems to be a common theme running with their 4x4 vehicles too, nearly every rig had some sort of Harley Davidson decal on it. Although Harleys were rare as hen's teeth there too, there are millions, literally, of motor scooters over there, and the only Harleys I saw were some hire bikes.



This very clean 1985 CJ7 has been extensively modified including a full YJ dash, YJ leaf springs and a brand new Bestop supertop with tinted curtains running 33x12.5 BFGs and late model TJ side mirrors



I found this early CJ parked at the side of the road playing music from the stereo. It was in good running order and had a proper RHD conversion



A run down 1983 CJ7 parked and forgotten running YJ axles and wheels



Neat Toyota FJ40s are common in Bali



This must have been a Nissan G60 once, now it has a fibreglass body and a Mutt M151 grille. The red lamps were used by police but are also simply used as decoration. It has a Fremantle Dockers license plate.

Another odd ball vehicle you see a few of that I've never seen in Australia is the VW "thing". It was 1970 to 1973 high ground clearance 2wd utility vehicle built in Mexico, there were hard and soft top versions, they would make a fun buggy if you couldn't afford a Jeep there.

On a road trip into the suburbs with nurse Jeep we managed to track down a "custom jip shop", it had one nice CJ out the front and a glass cabinet of old badges, some magazines and a shelf of junk, that was it. The guy we found squatting in the back corner keeping out of the hot sun couldn't speak any English so we took a few photos and kept moving.



Jeep spare wheel covers were popular on all four wheel drives



One of the many tricked up Ferozas or Rockys

This LWB CJ had been built on an early closed knuckle running gear. The ad called it a 1972 CJ5, it had a YJ front clip with round headlights, CJ8 door cutouts and CJ5/6 running gear. At this stage I realised anything goes in Bali. It even had two fellas snoozing underneath the Jeep in the hot late afternoon. They were alarmed when I took photos but as soon as I said Jeep they understood.



Another 4WD with a Jeep spare wheel cover

So in a weeks motoring around on two or four wheels I think I only saw two JKs (probably the same one twice), a hand full of generally well done CJ-7s, two YJs, half a dozen XJs all well built. A couple of army Jeeps still driving around and the rest were tarted up Toyota FJ40s and various other Japanese 4wds. It would seem you need to be pretty well off over there to expect the same level of motor vehicle we're all accustomed too.

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