

Tents, shelters and huts



Expeditioners stay in various forms of accommodation depending on their activities. There is a range of shelter available from permanent field huts to transportable huts and tents. If caught out unexpectedly, there may be no option but to quickly build an emergency snow shelter, or bunk down in a bivvy bag.

Tents such as polar pyramids or polar dome tents are the most common form of field accommodation. If staying for any length out in the field, expeditioners may stay in more permanent or durable types of accommodation, such as an Apple hut or a traverse van.

There are a number of long term field huts and remote refuges accessible from all four Australian research stations. All are equipped with emergency food rations, cookers and lighting.

Polar dome tents

A single model polar dome tent weighs 8.3kg and accommodates two to four people. These tents should be erected in sites away from the full force of the wind unless well protected, for example by building a snow wall. The polar dome is also used in aviation and Håggglunds survival kits.

Polar pyramid tents

Based on the design of tent used by Sir Robert Falcon Scott in the early twentieth century, the modern polar pyramid has been modified and enhanced with modern technology. Collapsible in two sections for easy deployment, the tent is quick and easy to assemble and is the most frequently used of our tents.

A modified version has been collaboratively designed by the Australian Antarctic Division with our Australian supplier for subantarctic use, using waterproof fabric and a vestibule. This tent is designed for two or three people but four can be accommodated in an emergency.

The polar pyramid, if properly pitched and well-secured, will withstand winds of up to 100 km/hour in full blizzard conditions. It relies on its pyramid shape for stability and on the load of snow packed on its valance. Each polar pyramid weighs about 30 kg.



An Apple hut



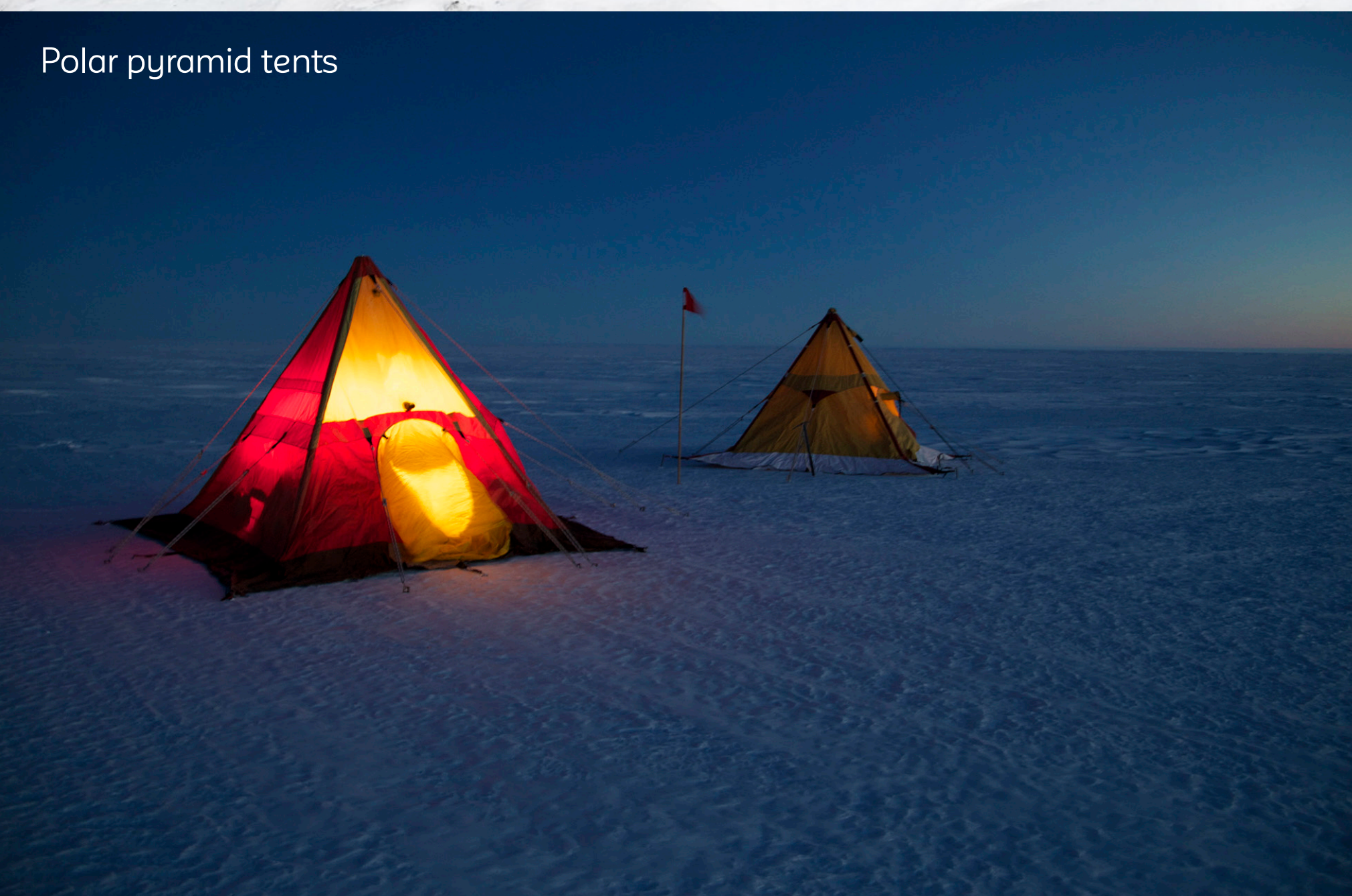
Polar dome tent



Traverse vans



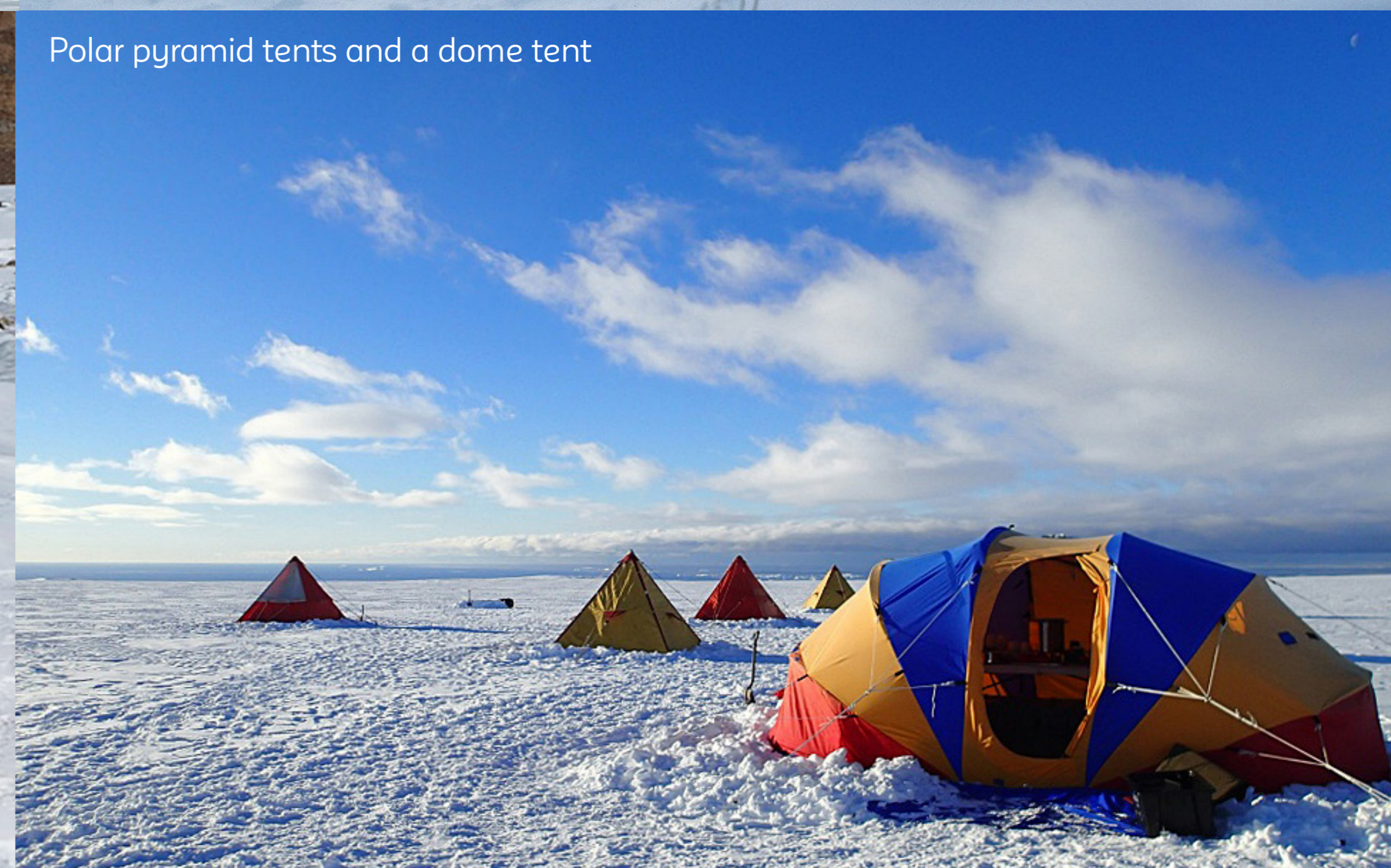
Polar pyramid tent and traverse van



Polar pyramid tents



Polar dome tent



Polar pyramid tents and a dome tent