

LARCs

Lighter, Amphibious, Resupply, Cargo

The LARC is an ideal all-terrain vehicle. Its design allows for the transition from water to land, or reverse, often with little or no preparation. Large balloon tyres provide suspension and aid in floatation. It can make surf landings in most types of weather.

Previously, the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) used LARCs to resupply its stations in Antarctica, Macquarie Island and Heard Island. They were first used at Macquarie Island in the summer of 1970-71 and today LARCs are used primarily in the resupply of Macquarie Island and for operations at Heard Island. For many years the LARCs were supplied and operated by the Australian Army on behalf of the Australian Antarctic Division, but in 2008 the Army transferred eight surplus vehicles to the Division.

LARCs twice circumnavigated Macquarie Island; first in 1976, taking 18 hours, and again in 1993, taking 11 hours. A LARC was also used in the evacuation of passengers and crew from the Nella Dan after she was driven ashore at Buckles Bay, Macquarie Island, in 1984.

Now over 45 years old, the AAD's LARCs are essentially historic machines. As they are no longer in production, those that remain, however, continue to demonstrate their well-adapted and enduring design for subantarctic ship-to-shore operations.

