Kubota RTV X900, General Purpose Model

The RTV range of vehicles came onto the world market as a result of the deaths and injuries sustained to drivers of Quad Bikes, (ATV). They are much safer than an ATV due to their wider track and more accurate steering providing greater stability. Their compactness and good visibility are also good features. They include two seats, both with seat belts and ROPS.(Roll Over Protection System). In the event of an accident, the roll-over protection frame minimises injury to the driver and passenger, and the seat belts prevent them from being thrown out.

The Kubota RTV X900 is in the mid range of the utility market. It is solid, well engineered, well made (in the USA) and reliable providing longevity.

A tray, behind the two seats, can carry up to 750kgs, sufficient to carry tools and most equipment to a work site, or be fitted with a water tank to carry up to 700kgs of water for watering plants and trees.

Current Rotary use: The Water Bag Project .

Currently Rotarians use a ATV Quad Bike to tow a small trailer with 400 litres of water in 2 200 litre drums to water seedlings in 3 plantation sites approx 3 kms from the water source. Being a Quad bike, the inherent dangers due to design (poor steering, narrow track and no roll over protection) exist and are magnified by towing a small trailer carrying 400kgs of water. The Quad bike is old. With 50 seedlings in the project, 1250 litres of water are needed to fill every bag, which require 3 trips from the water source.

Using an RTV.

(1) Much greater safety than a Quad Bike, the major advantage.

(2)Carries up to 700 litres (Kgs) of water. Number of trips required reduced to 2.

(3)The container of water on the tray is higher from the ground than the drums on the trailer. Hence the flow rate of water from the tank is greater, resulting in shorter fill times for the bags.

(4)Being able to carry two people where the Quad bike has only one, the driver, a vehicle to carry the second person needed in the refill process is not required, reducing costs to ALT.

The RTV will be ALT’s property but will be available to Rotarians to use on projects at Calperum, a better situation than current, where the Quad Bike is available if not needed by ALT staff.

Other Current Projects

Tree Health monitoring

Sub-surface water testing

River Murray water testing

Note: I do not know what “RTV” means, other than ???? Terrain Vehicle.

Everyone I have talked to about these, including the supplier calls them an RTV.