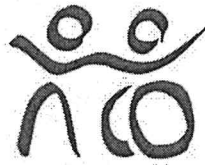
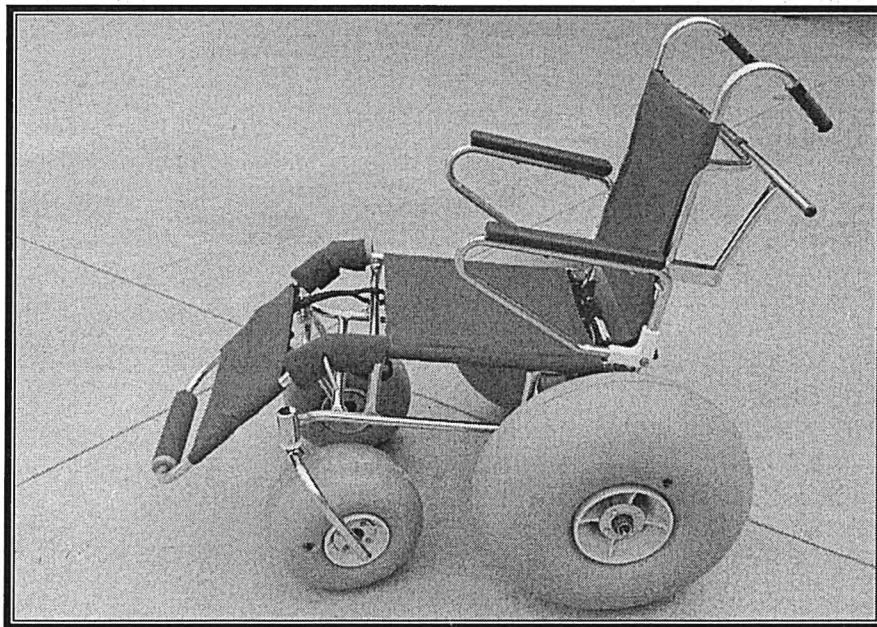


***FREEWHEELER*** by



northcott

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE / USE



Manufactured by:  
Northcott Equipment Services  
1 Fennell Street  
NORTH PARRAMATTA NSW 2151  
Ph: 9890 0195  
Fax: 9890 0924  
Email: **NES@northcott.com.au**

## **CONDITIONS OF USE**

The Northcott Society has designed this chair for use on the beach, at the waters edge, in the snowfields and on bush trails. Care must be exercised when using **"FreeWheeler"** over uneven or unstable ground.

The Northcott Society strongly recommends users of this chair to read and fully understand the instructions and recommendations with regard to assembly, dismantling and use, prior to using the equipment.

The **"FreeWheeler"** has been designed to be used at the waters edge and is stable with water levels at around the centre height of the wheels. It is important for users to understand that the chair has balloon tyres, which have a tendency to float depending on the weight being carried. By taking the chair into deeper water it must be realised that the chair **will float and become unstable** and require the need for considerable effort in controlling its stability.

Wave patterns, wind strength, type of beach and underwater formations can all combine to create very difficult conditions for individuals to deal with. Prior to going to the beach or the waters edge ensure that you have the knowledge, experience and ability to deal with the conditions that may present themselves. Please check with your local coastwatch or weather facility for the latest forecast. **IF IN DOUBT - THEN DON'T.**

The Northcott Society has designed and manufactured this chair using the finest quality materials and workmanship and it should last an owner for many years to come. If you feel that there are issues or concerns that should be raised concerning the quality or performance of **"FreeWheeler"** please do not hesitate to contact us, using our contact details on the front cover of this instruction booklet.

## **INTENDED USER GUIDELINES**

The maximum weight of the intended user of this product is 100 kgs.

The wheelchair may become unstable if the user has a disability which creates excessive movement or rocking motions. Please discuss this with the seating technicians at Northcott Equipment Services or a qualified seating clinician prior to purchase of this product. Modifications may be required to ensure its suitability in this situation.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE**

### **Stainless steel frame**

Major Frame components manufactured from 316 Marine Grade Stainless Steel. Some minor components have been manufactured from 304-grade stainless steel, which will result in some minor tarnishing. This is normal and not detrimental to the materials or construction of the chair.

**After use in salt water, or a sandy environment, it is recommended that the chair is washed down using fresh water and allowed to dry properly before storing away.**

### **Seating fabric**

The upholstery fabric used is made from breathing, UV stabilised acrylic which is also used in covers for powerboats and yachts. So a salt laden atmosphere is not a problem. As the material is a breathing fabric it also allows air to pass through quickly which speeds up the drying process and reduces the risk of mildew.

**It is recommended that the upholstery is thoroughly washed in fresh water after use and allowed to dry before storage.**

### **Front castor assembly**

The front castors rotate through 360 degrees making turning an easy manoeuvre. The bearings and bushes used in the castors are manufactured from stainless steel and nylon and are preset in an assembly, that **DO NOT** require any adjustment when assembling or dismantling the chair into components for travel.

**DO NOT USE WD40**, as it is a drying agent and **NOT** a lubricant.

## **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

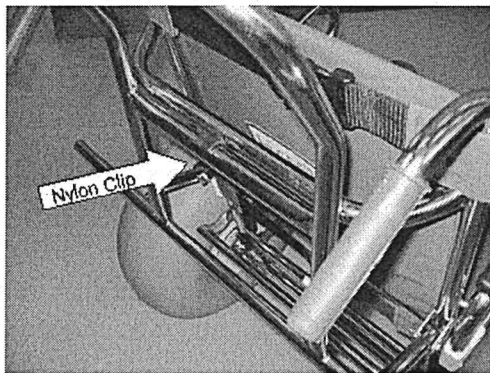
- Follow washing and cleaning instructions for fabric seating as detailed above.  
Can a soap product be used ?
- Wash down the chair frame, particularly after exposure to salt water.
- To clean the frame, use of a stainless steel cleaning product will remove the small amount of tarnishing
- Tyre pressure should be checked prior to each use using a special low pressure tyre gauge
- If the wheels or axles require lubricating, a silicone based product must be used.  
**This must be done after each use in salt water.**

## **PARKING BRAKE/ANTI-TIP ASSEMBLY**

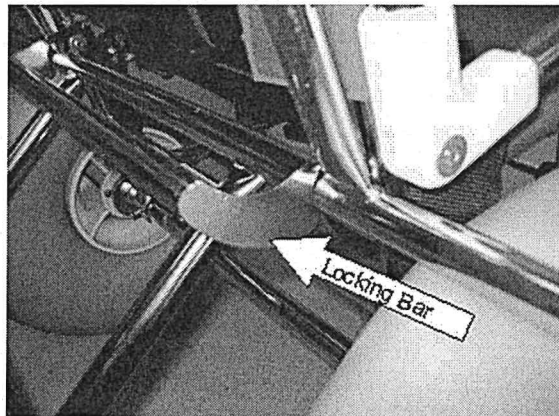
The parking brake and anti-tip mechanism when not in use is clipped to the top crossbar adjacent to the push handles.

### **TO APPLY THE PARK BRAKE**

Steady the chair; release the parking brake/anti-tip bar assembly manually from the nylon clip, swing down towards the rear wheels. Place your foot centrally on the anti-tip bar and push it forward onto the tyres. This will then depress the surface of the tyre and the locking bar needs to be engaged to prevent accidental release of the park brake and anti-tip bar.



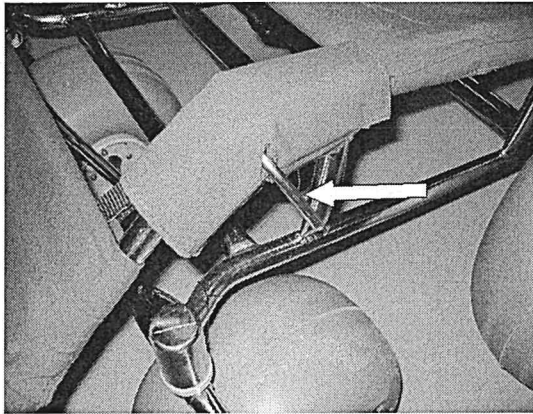
### **TO RELEASE THE PARK BRAKE**



Steady the chair, lift the locking bar upwards to release the park brake. Swing the parking brake/anti-tip bar assembly upwards and locate into the nylon-retaining clip for travel.

## **FRONT FOOT REST**

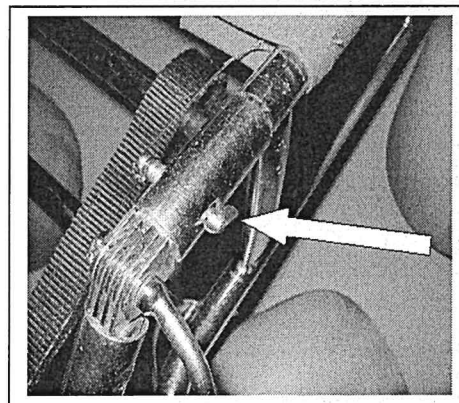
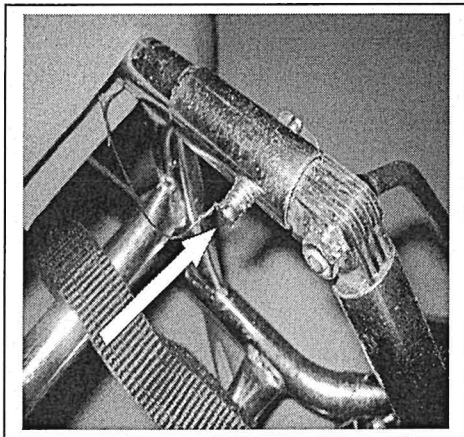
This is adjustable for angle and height, using the locking handles that are fitted to either side of the front frame pivot point (see photo below).



To adjust height/angle, release and turn in an anti-clockwise motion the locking handle on either side. Adjust footrest height to the preferred position and re-lock the footrest by rotating the locking handle in a clockwise direction.

The acrylic leg support panel is adjustable for position by releasing the Velcro straps, adjusting the panel as required and refitting the straps.

The front footrest can be taken off the chair by removing the two spring loaded drop latch pins (see photo below). To remove the pins, apply pressure to the pinhead (spring side), and rotate so the latch will not drop into the vertical position. Lift drop latch to the horizontal plane and release pressure on the pinhead. Ensuring the latch is in the horizontal plane, withdraw the pin.



Remove the footrest by pulling the frame away from the front end of the chair. To refit Simply reverse the procedure. **NOTE** always locate the retaining drop latch pins in a secure place to prevent loss when not in use.



### **ARM RESTS**

These can be raised to a position that is 90 degrees from the horizontal. This provides for an easier transfer from a wheelchair or vehicle. **EXTRA CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN ON SUNNIER DAYS AS THE ARMRESTS MAY BECOME HOT TO THE TOUCH, AND MAY CAUSE DAMAGE OR BURNS TO THE SKIN.**

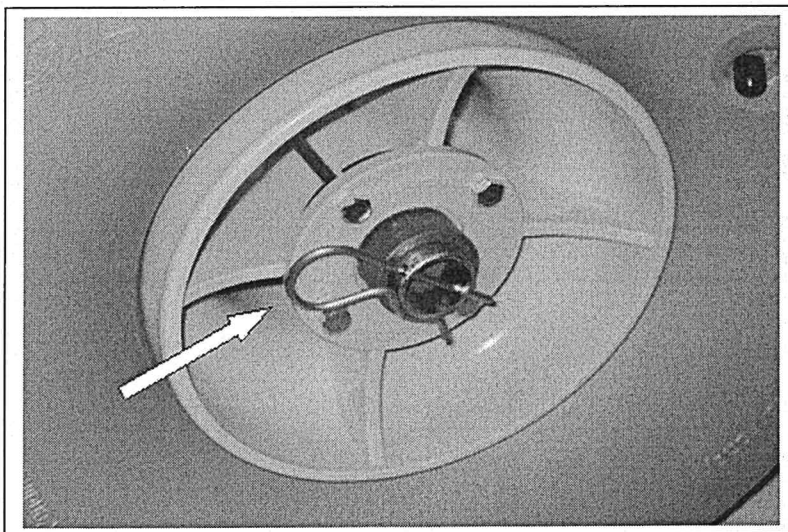
### **WHEELS AND TYRES**

The rims are manufactured from a plastic material and come fully assembled with bearings and soft plastic pneumatic tyres, inflated to 3 (pounds per square inch pressure) using a bicycle pump. **DO NOT OVER INFLATE TYRES.**

The front castor assemblies in normal use **DO NOT** require any adjustment or maintenance other than a wash down with fresh water after use in a salt-water environment.

The larger rear wheels are retained on the axle by a "R" clip (see photo below). The "R" clip needs to be removed to allow the wheel assemblies to be released from the axle. The wheel assemblies and axle should be washed thoroughly to remove traces of salt and sand. They should be allowed to dry and refitted to the axle if required and retained by using the "R" clip.

The use of a silicon lubricant spray on the axle shaft will aid the refitting of the wheel assemblies. **DO NOT** use WD40 at any time, as it is a drying agent and **NOT** a lubricant.



## **TYRE CARE AND PUNCTURE REPAIRS**

Information on these subjects can also be found on a separate card included with these instructions. Puncture repairs to tyres may be carried out by the user. In the event of any other repairs needed to the tyres, please contact Northcott Equipment Services for advice on returning the part to our workshop for repair. There is a 12 month warranty on this part.

### **Tools Needed for Tyre Repair:**

- ❖ Small nail / pin
- ❖ Electric or butane heated soldering iron
- ❖ OR knife and lighter if soldering iron unavailable
- ❖ If a knife is used, it must be reheated frequently
- ❖ Soapy water
- ❖ PU chips enclosed
- ❖ Low pressure gauge

### **Procedure for Tyre Repair:**

- Inflate tyre and submerge in soapy water to detect where the leak is.
- Mark the site of the puncture by inserting a nail / pin
- Deflate the tyre completely
- Remove the nail / pin
- Heat the soldering iron or knife tip
- Pinch the area around the puncture hole or cut to expose the inner edge of tyre wall. Apply the soldering iron or heated knife to the tyre wall until the material gets sticky.
- Gradually release your grip on the tyre and allow the material to come back together.
- Apply the soldering iron or knife to the outer edge of the hole / cut and build up tyre material on top of that area.
- If additional tyre material is required i.e. the hole is too large, use the enclosed PU chips.
- Working quickly, heat a PU chip to make it sticky. Put the heated PU chip into the depression and melt it into place.
- Using the side of the soldering iron/knife flatten out any build up on the tyre.
- Let the repair cool and cure for 10-15 minutes.
- Inflate to the specified pressure. For best results, use a bicycle tyre pump.
- **DO NOT OVERINFLATE.**
- Use low pressure gauge to check pressure. Ideal pressure is 2.5 PSI. The range can be 2 – 4 PSI.
- Use the valve cap at all times to keep sand out.

## **WARRANTY CONDITIONS**

The Wheelchair is warranted for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase against faulty materials or workmanship. No warranty work may be carried out on the chair during this period without the express and written permission of The Northcott Society. No unauthorised claims for repair costs will be accepted from a repairer or purchaser under any circumstances.

Any unauthorised modification of the chair or its accessories is expressly forbidden and any such work will effectively render any warranty that is available null and void.

The wheelchair is to be returned to Northcott Equipment Services at 1 Fennell Street, North Parramatta 2151 with the cost of transporting the responsibility of the customer.

All requests for repair work must be notified by phoning the Head Office of NES on (02) 9890 0195 prior to sending the wheelchair for repairs.

**The complete wheelchair must be returned to NES if the following situation occurs:**

- 1) If the frame of the wheelchair is out of alignment or damaged
- 2) The brakes are not working

### **Tyres**

Exceeding 4 PSI tyre pressure and / or overloading (maximum weight is 100 kgs) will void the tyre warranty.



**INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISMANTLING  
AND ASSEMBLY OF  
THE NORTHCOTT FREEWHEELER**

**TO DISMANTLE**

**REAR WHEEL REMOVAL**

To remove the large rear wheels from the axle shaft.

- Remove the "R" clips from either end of the axle tube and slide off.
- Refit "R" clips onto axle tube to prevent loss.

**REAR AXLE REMOVAL**

To remove the axle from the back rest:

- firstly remove the wheels (see steps above)
- and then remove the spring loaded latch pins which retain the axle tube into the clevis at the base of the backrest frame.
- Refit spring loaded latch pins into backrest to prevent loss.

**BACKREST FRAME REMOVAL**

- Raise the arm rests to the vertical and remove the four (4) spring loaded latch pins which secure the backrest to the main seat frame.
- Refit latch pins into the seat frame to prevent loss.

**REMOVAL OF FRONT FOOT REST**

- Undo foot rest Velcro retaining straps.
- Remove two spring loaded latch pins, one from either side at the front of the seat frame.
- Pull away footrest complete with upholstered panel.
- Refit latch pins into frame to prevent loss.

**FRONT CASTOR ASSEMBLY REMOVAL**

- Remove the R-clips from the front castor housing.
- The front castor assemblies can then be removed by sliding out from the housing.
- Refit R-clips through holes in the housing to prevent damage.

## **TO ASSEMBLE**

### **FRONT CASTOR ASSEMBLIES TO SEAT FRAME**

- Remove the R-clip from the bearing assembly housing and slide the castor assembly into the front castor housing.
- Refit the R-clip through the holes in the castor housing ensuring it passes through both holes.

### **REAR AXLE TO BACKREST FRAME**

- Remove latch pins from the backrest axle clevis mounting points.
- Align the drilled holes in the axle with the drilled holes in the clevis.
- Align the latch pin and apply pressure to the head of the pin and rotate so that the latch drops into the vertical position and secures the axle shaft to the backrest.

### **BACKREST TO THE SEAT FRAME**

- Remove the four (4) latch pins from the mounting clevis in the seat frame.
- Match up and align the two bottom clevis points at the base of the backrest.
- Ensuring that the tongue goes between the cheeks of the clevis.
- Align the drop latch with the latch pin in the horizontal plane and rotate the pin so the latch does not drop into the vertical plane.
- Slide the pin through the clevis and rotate the pin.
- Apply pressure to the pinhead so the latch on the pin drops to the vertical position. Align the two top clevis points and repeat the procedure.

### **REAR WHEELS TO AXLE SHAFT**

- Remove "R" clips from the axle shaft. Ensure that the axle shaft is clean and without grit or sand on the shaft.
- Align wheel centre with axle shaft.
- Use a light silicon spray lubricant and slide on wheels so they abut the stop washer and refit "R" clip.
- **DO NOT USE WD40**, as it is a drying agent and **NOT** a lubricant.

## **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS (Cont'd)**

### **FRONT FOOT REST TO SEAT FRAME**

- Remove latch pins from the front of the seat frame.
- Offer up and fit the spigot section of the footrest into the front end of the seat frame. Align the drop latch with the latch pin in a horizontal plane.
- Rotate so the latch does not drop into the vertical position.
- Slide through the seat frame the spigots of the footrest. Apply pressure to the latch pinhead and rotate so the latch drops into the vertical position.
- Undo Velcro straps and wrap around the cross tube at the front end of the seat frame and refit Velcro.
- Adjust position as required by using the buckles, the Velcro or a combination of both.

### **FINAL CHECK**

Before using "**FreeWheeler**" visually and physically check the following.

- ✓ **CHECK** that all the pins have been secured properly.
- ✓ **CHECK** the "R" clips in the wheels are fitted around the tube and not across the end of the tube.
- ✓ **CHECK** that the park brake works properly and latches in the release jaw clip.
- ✓ **CHECK** that the front castor R-clips are secure.
- ✓ **CHECK THAT THE TYRES ARE INFLATED CORRECTLY.**
- ✓ **SEAT BELT HARNESS** is fitted to the user

### **GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Seat width 18 inches  
Seat Height approx. 21 inches (53 cm)  
Length overall 48 inches (120cm) including footrest  
Maximum width 38.5 inches (98cm)  
Height 40 inches (102cm) from ground to top handles  
Front to Rear wheel centres 22 inches (56cm)  
Weight assembled 35Kg (approximately)

### **LIST OF COMPONENTS**

|                               |                                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Frame                         | Seat Frame x 1 (304 & 316 stainless steel tubing) |
|                               | Backrest Frame x 1                                |
| Upholstery                    | Seat x 1 (Docril UV stabilised acrylic canvas)    |
|                               | Backrest x 1                                      |
|                               | Footrest x 1                                      |
| Front Tyres x 2               | sizes 11.8 x 7 inches (30 x 18cm)                 |
| Rear Tyres x 2                | sizes 19.8 x 9 inches (49 x 23 cm)                |
|                               | Roleez tyres, inflation 2-4 psi                   |
| 'R' Clip for Rear Wheels x 2  |                                                   |
| Front Fork/Wheel Assembly x 2 |                                                   |
| Footrest Assembly x 1         |                                                   |
| Rear Axle x 1                 |                                                   |
| Armrests x 2                  |                                                   |
| Rear Axle x 1                 |                                                   |

### **OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES**

The following accessories are available by contacting Northcott Equipment Services on (02) 9890 0195 or your nearest distributor.

- Headrest
- Shoulder Harness
- Lateral Trunk Support

Contact details for distributor, where applicable