



Rangers' Review

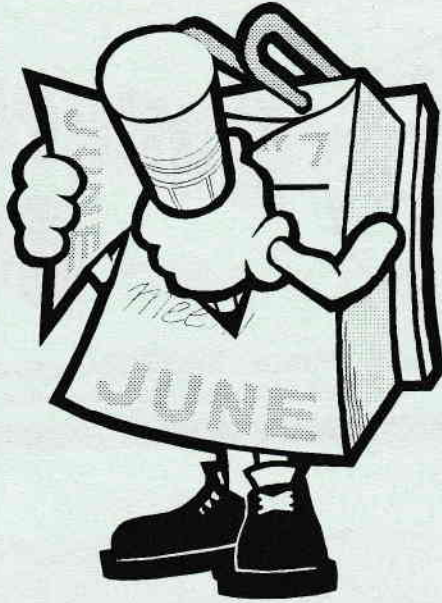
Volume 3 No. 1

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.
PO Box 1150, Blackwood S.A. 5051

June 1997



*View of the Victorian Alps
Read story inside*



SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

*Renewal of membership to
to be paid by
end of July 1997*

<i>Full member</i>	<i>\$35.00</i>
<i>Non -Club member</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>
<i>Joining fee</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>

Mt. Lofly Rangers Committee

Elected Members

President:	Ken Bradey
Vice President:	Clyde Paton
Secretary:	Dean Dayman
Treasurer	Hubert Orbons
Trips Co-ordinator	Ted Bal
Welcoming Officer	John Keay
Association Delegate	John Dodd

Non-Elected Positions

Property Officer	Henry Stendara
Librarian	Jack Moss
Social Co-ordinator	Cheryl O'Toole
Insurance Officer	<u>Vacant</u>
Minute Secretary	<u>Vacant</u>
Training Education Co-ordinator	<u>Vacant</u>
Editorial Team	Gail Dodd Dean Dayman

As you can see there are a few Non-Elected Positions still not filled. If you are interested in any or all of the positions please talk to one of the Committee Members, who will be only too happy to answer any queries that you may have regarding the positions and what it entails.

Please get to know your new Committee and make them feel welcome as they are there for your benefit.



JUNE 1997

Saturday 28th Saturday Night - A Social Committee has arranged a "Dinner for no Reason" So what better reason do you need to come. For \$12.95 per head enjoy a night out at the new Flagstaff Hotels Smorgasboard - all you can eat - pig out and have fun. Starts 8.00pm For reservations see Sheryl Penno with a \$5.00 deposit.

JULY 1997

Saturday 4th thru to 11th. Port Lincoln/Coffin Bay Peninsular. Sand Beaches, Limestone outcrops driving. Families, bush camping, fishing. Fully Self Sufficient, 27mhz CB/UHF, Flags. Fishing mostly from safe rocks. Trip Leader Mike Scherer Phone 8270 3985

Saturday 4th for three weeks. Cape Yorke from Cairns. Experienced 4WD'rs only. Families - no trailers or Caravan. Trip Leader John Keay Phone 8278 6863

Saturday 12th.13th . Geranium - Another Training weekend in the Sand Dunes but totally different to that of Peake. Great Camping area with 1 shower and flush toilet block- plenty of shade- Vehicle charge \$10.00 per day - Must be self sufficient Contact Ted Bal on 8382 1932

Sunday 20th - Tour the Unknown , Day trip - Scared , if not meet at the Blackwood Football Club 9.15am. Bring your own lunch and drinks as you never know where you may be. Trip Leader Joyce and Brian Gray Phone 8278 1576

AUGUST 1997

Saturday 2nd for three weeks-East of Alice- Vacancy exists on planned trip for 1 vehicle to join us. Travelling mainly through the outback of South Australia and the area East of Alice Springs inc Harts Range, Altunga and Ruby Gorge Interested parties to phone Dean Dayman on 8296 6390.

Saturday 9th thu to 24th - Simpson Desert Visit many Historical sites during this ideal time to see and cross the Simpson. Approx 900km of adventure Well maintained reliable vehicles a must with need to carry 250/350L of fuel. UHF communication preferred- need to be total self sufficient. Expressions of Interest contact Trip Leader George Vlahos Phone (08) 8278 9229



(continued)

SEPTEMBER 1997

Sunday 1st - A Social Outing - This is the opportunity you've all been waiting for. The chance to drown some bait or show how good you are with the 'ole rod 'n' reel. The day also offers those present to walk, talk and explore - further details to come Day Trip Leader Brian & Joyce Gray Phone 8278 1576

OCTOBER 1997

Saturday 4th/5th and 6th (Long Weekend) The last of our training runs at Geranium. Camping area with 1 shower and Toilet block - plenty of shade - Vehicle charge \$10.00 per day - Must be self sufficient. Contact Ted Bal on 8382 1932.

NOVEMBER 1997

DECEMBER 1997

Sunday 7th - Christmas Picnic breakup. Last year was well attended so once again the Social Committee will be organising something similar to last year Venue to be advised.

BEAUTY BY APPOINTMENT

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VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY CAPER APRIL 12TH TO 27TH

The trip began with an early meeting at the BP Crafers Service Station where the convoy of four vehicles formed. Present were

Ted & Marcin Trip Leader

Ray & Barbara (3)

Denny, Barbara (1), Zoe, & Steve

Barbara (2), Jessica & Ashley.

After a quick chat and introductions we set off for the 900km drive to Mansfield, where we spent our first night in cabins, watching Port Power win a footy match. (*what a start to this holiday....editor*)

Sunday morning we awoke ready to head for the hills only to find that I was the proud owner of a Nissan with two flat batteries, due to a failure of the dual battery system. After a makeshift wiring job and some battery swapping we set off and it wasn't long before we were off the bitumen. After travelling a couple of kms along a gravel track we were greeted with some adjectival expressions by some grumpy Victorians who seemed to object to us taking photos of the result of a traffic manoeuvre they called "A BLOODY *@#%\$## HEAD ON". We could only guess they were in a bad mood because it was Sunday and they were late for church, so we moved on.

We left the gravel to begin our first hill climb up a track dotted with three foot high washouts and it wasn't long before these precisely engineered speed humps from hell had achieved their purpose, reshaping side steps, belly tanks, bumper bars and tow bars. On reaching the top of the hill we could finally see the magnificent panoramic views that the Victorian High Country has to offer.

Our next stop was Craig's hut where much of "The Man From Snowy River" was filmed. Once again the views were magnificent, spoiled only by the smoke haze from the many burn offs carried out in the area at the time. We left Craig's Hut and headed for Binderec Falls for lunch followed by a short but steep walk leading to a viewing platform behind the falling water. From here we made our way to that night's camp-site, amongst huge gum trees, at Pike's Flat. As we set up camp the sun disappeared behind the hills and with the

darkness came the cold, so everyone rugged up, cooked tea on the fire (followed by toasted marshmallows), and chat.

Day three commenced with another hill climb to a look-out and from there we drove to Lovick's Hut which was still shrouded in the early morning fog. After a short rest we continued on via King Billie track, a rough drive with more steep hill climbs and steep humps. Along the way we stopped at Howitt Hut and then continued to Wannangatta, where we set up camp for the night. It was here that we were visited by possums which delighted the kids. Marcin tried for some time to get some good video of the possums without much success.

In the morning Ted discovered that our visitors has helped themselves to several days worth of his bread supplies during a short period when he had left his car door open. The fourth days drive commenced with a mountain climb to a helipad on the top of Mt. Sarah. The final climb of about 1km to the top was only achievable in second low and caused the vehicles temperature to climb, it was STEEP!! Once again we has panoramic views spoilt only by the distant smoke haze, as would be the case for the rest of the trip. From here it was more rough tracks, hill-climbs and descents to an early camp next to a creek at Talbotville. Ray set up his shower for all to use and billies were soon on the boil to provide the hot water. To everyone's amusement Denny and I opted for a swim in one of the creeks deep pools instead of a hot shower, and yes, it was cold! Marcin and Jessica went frog hunting and placed their captives in what they believed was an empty beer can. They are now able to tell you that frogs can't hold their grog as when they took the frogs out, they were flat on their backs - drunk.

The next morning we travelled to the Pinnacles, one of the highest points in the area, only to find the track had been closed 500m from the top. A steep walk to the top again revealed more breath-taking views. From here Ray took the lead and soon had us going along an over grown track and through the only mud we would see for the whole of the trip. This soon ended and it was back to a rough dusty hill climb. Late that afternoon we came across a herd of cows on the track, bringing progress to the next camp-site to a crawl. The herd could not get off the track because of the dense trees and bushes so we could only push them forwards. After several klms and many humorous comments, by Ray in the leading car, that had us all in



Crossing one of the many streams



Out with the Chain Saw!

laughter, we finally came to a creek crossing and the herd headed off followed the creek. Due to the delay we could not make it to our intended camp before dark, so we found a great camp-site just off the track, in a clearing surrounded by ferns. During the night we awoke to find the cows wondering through our camp.

The next morning Barbara (2) was relieved to here that we were heading to Omeo for supplies and fuel, which we were all getting very low on, by this time. We camped for the night at the caravan park and Ted pulled in at the mechanics for repairs to the Toyota's front wheel bearings. We couldn't believe it when he returned within an hour with the problem fixed, how's that for country service!.

The next morning we headed off for Long Plains Hut and on the way we had to cross a small bridge, if you can call two planks a bridge. Marcin, always after good footage for his video, decided the best spot from which to film the bridge crossing was to stand in the mud next to the bridge and in the process he lost his shoe! I just hope the shot was worth it!. I think Barbara (1) got the best shot of the bridge crossing as she was filming Marcin.

That night was to be the coldest night of the trip and the camp-fire was greatly appreciated. In the morning we found our small 2 litre water container which was left out, had frozen solid, and a thick fog had rolled in - we could hardly see the next tent! and where did we park the white Nissan? Trying to find the toilet was an adventure in itself!.

From Long Plains Hut it was a short drive of 30km to the Popplers by the Murray River. We arrived there for lunch and set camp for two nights and a well earned rest. The time was spent playing cricket with the kids, car maintenance and giving the camp ovens a work-out cooking dampers, bread and roasts.

Then it was back to the tracks which were now not so steep as we travelled mainly along the ridges and the valleys were the tracks were overgrown and covered with broken branches and the occasional fallen tree. After passing Davies Hut and travelling through the Indie Wilderness Area we headed for that night's camp site. It was at this time that Ted who was leading the convoy got lost and arrived at his intended camp-site alone. The rest of us followed Denny who believed he was following Ted. It was not until we got to a T-junction some kms along the track that Denny and the rest of us realised Denny was following himself!..! After



Ridge Tracks of the Alps

Victorian Alps (continued)

some discussion and referring to the maps, we decide Ted would be found at Gibson's Hut, so under Ray's leadership, we proceeded to Wheeler's Hut??. A quick back track and we soon found Ted who was bewildered as to how cars parked behind him at a turn off did not follow him and instead headed off down the wrong track? We just said we had looked for and found a better camp-site at Wheeler's Hut, "what else could we say?". And so that night we camped at Wheeler's Hut. During the night we had some very welcoming rain, but it was barely enough to keep down the dust, let alone answer Denny's payers for mud. In the morning there was a puncture to repair before heading to Dartmouth Dam.

Again we found ourselves on a track littered with sticks, branches and trees of which Ray, aided by his chain saw, made short work off. By lunch time we were at the dam and after a short discussion decided that this was the spot for another rest day. Due to the shorts

and T-shirt weather we were having, Ray and I didn't take long to go for a swim, but couldn't convince anyone else that it was enjoyable and refreshing!. Meanwhile the kids had caught some skinks which they then discovered could be hypnotised and so asked mum if they could take them home as pets. Mum was not too keen about this and explained that they would be better off if they were released as they were wild creatures and that kids wouldn't be able to feed them and that they would probably die. To which Ashley, the youngest replied, "But why can't we take them home?"!!. It was here at the dam that Zoe discovered what a great toy dirt was, she was black for most of the day as Barbara (1) gave up trying to keep her clean!. The Barbara's again had time to fire up the camp ovens and Barbara (3) even managed a chocolate pudding for everyone's desert. We were really roughing it that night!!.

After two nights at the dam it was time to get more supplies at Benambra, and then we headed to the Falls Creek area. to our disappointment we found that most of the tracks in this area were closed. Along the way a cow ran in front of our vehicle, not nice at 90kms/ph, but luckily we avoided it. This was followed by a puncture for each of the Nissans with one tyre being beyond repair. We were running out of spares fast.

That night we camped on Raspberry Hill and as we were putting up our tents the clouds surrounded us in a thick fog, and of course, it started to rain as we were all cooking tea on the fire. We all opted for bed straight after tea.

The next day we drove to Fall Creek, had a good look around the area and saw the last of the spectacular panoramic views. From here we headed out of the mountains and back to civilisation to spend our last night at the Porepunkah Caravan Park and a well earned rest at the Bright Hotel. The next morning we headed back home.

To sum up, this trip had everything I expected and more, we covered a distance of 1023kms during our eleven days of four wheel driving. The scenery was constantly changing, the sights were spectacular, the driving was exhilarating and the minor damage soon forgotten. It was a trip which my family would do again at a moments notice

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IF YOU HAVE A BUSINESS WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE PLEASE SEE GAIL DODD or IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM FOR SALE WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVERTISED PLEASE SEE DEAN DAYMAN. Our Phone numbers are on the back of this magazine along with the other committee members.

NEED INSURANCE

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Meeting Dates

Monday 14th of July at 7.30p.m.

Monday 11th of August at 7.30p.m.

On the 14th of July our Guest Speaker will be talking about GPS's. So if you ever wanted to know anything about GPS's and how they work don't miss out on this meeting.

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Classified ads can be placed in this section of the magazine by Phoning Dean Dayman
After Hours on 8296 6390 between 6.00pm and 9.00pm Monday to Friday.

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VICE PRESIDENT:	Clyde Paton	Hm. 8278 1964
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MOUNT LOFTY RANGERS

