

Rangers' Review

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc. PO Box 1150,

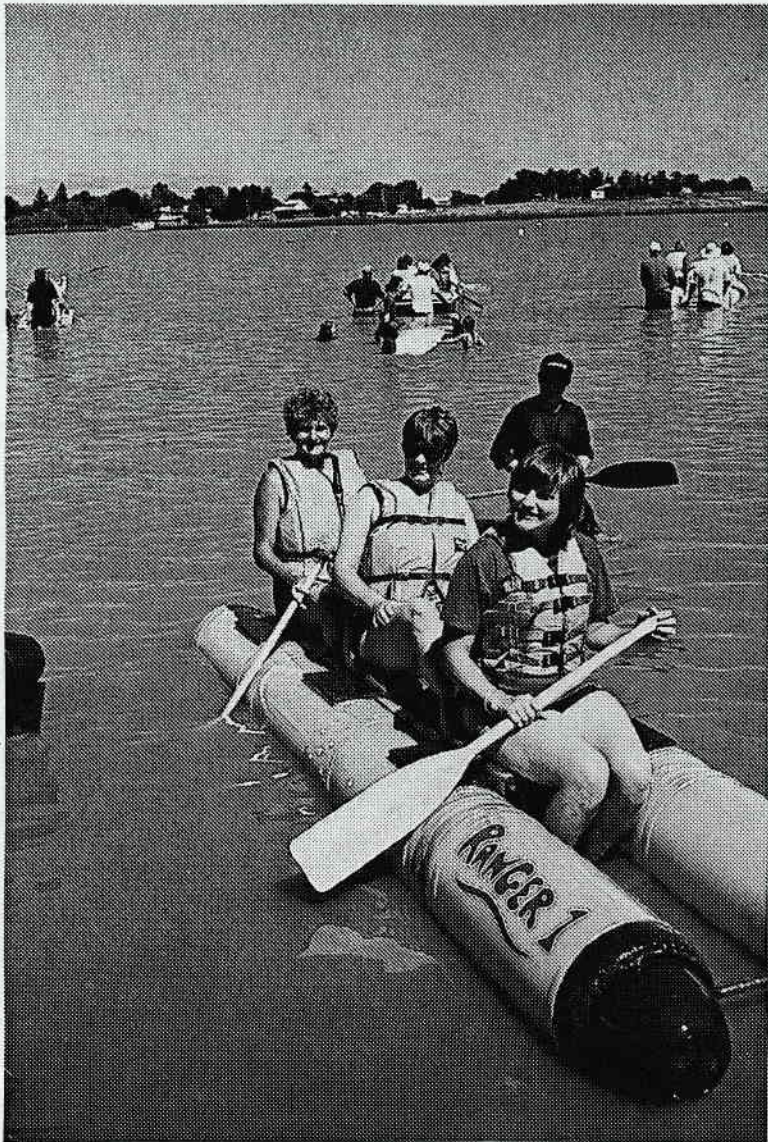
NEWSLETTER

March 1997

Volume 2. No. 9



*Mount Lofty Crew Members from left to right
Jim Bond, Peter Chapman, Neil Penno*



*Our own 'Ranger 1' Supports from front to back
Sheryl Curtis, Sheila Bond, Noellene Curtis*

INTERCLUB RAFT RACE

As told to your reporter by Rodney Curtis

What a great weekend - lots of activity - lots of fun and just great weather. Our club was well represented with 13 campers for the weekend and 18 plus day trippers on the Sunday. And yes, we were represented on the water as well thanks to Rodney Curtis, Peter Chapman and Jim Bond who built our "Ranger 1" over the space of 1 week. And it floated and looked good.

Saturday saw a settling in and trailing period. That night entertainment was provided by Bob Magor the 'bush poet' and a somewhat crowded tent.

The Sunday was race day and a number of heats were run to find out who would paddle-off for a place in the finals. Our No. 1 team of Neil Penno, Peter Chapman and Jim Bond did us proud but were overshadowed by the performance of our Management team of Ken Bradey and Ron Dunkley who WON a heat(all be it against some weak opposition).Never the less a win is a WIN. Well done to our guys.

Our ladies team of Shiela Bond, Noellene Curtis and Sheryl Penno also did us proud with a great second in one of the heats. They were looking for support relief paddlers, without success, so towards the end were feeling the pinch a bit. Now that the ice has been broken maybe we can get more participation. Again well done ladies.

Again the two successful clubs were Suzuki and Subaru who fought out the finals with an extremely fit Suzuki team claiming the Trophy. Our commiseration to club member Phill Dohne who just missed out on making the Suzuki's team - we could have had a winner in our club. It was another successful Club meet at Clayton with 7 Clubs represented

Thanks to all those who helped and represented The Mount Lofty Rangers over the Inter Club Raft Race Weekend.



March 1997

Saturday 8th/9th Whyalla & Districts Four Wheel Drive Club presents the 4WD FLINDERS FROLIC at SPEARS CREEK (South of Pt. Augusta) in conjunction with the S.A.A. 4WD Clubs Annual General Meeting. RSVP to be in by 14th FEBRUARY to Ken Brady

Monday 17th Club Driver Training THEORY Night at the Blackwood Football Club Rooms commencing 7.30 PM reference Ted Bal

Sunday 16th Gold Escort Route Revisited. Follow the final stages of the Gold Escort Route which starts in Ballarat. This final stage is the most interesting section with some sand hills and interesting country. BYO Lunch and Drinks, no shops, finishing at Tintinara. Convoy to depart from the Mt. Barker Oval on Wistow Road side at 8.30am. Trip Leader Dean Dayman Phone 8296 6390.

Sunday 23rd Day at the Murray Mouth - Goolwa. Meet at the Goolwa Scout/Cub Rooms at Goolwa by 10.30am. Transport Parents and Cubs up the Beach to the Murray Mouth and back again at 3.00pm. Join in the days fun and BBQ Lunch. Organiser Kevin Leslie Phone 8370 2229.

Thursday 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, Tuesday 1st April (Extra long Easter Weekend) Gammon Rangers. Moses leads another pilgrimage into the place he knows best. Great scenery, great 4WDing, great bush camping, just a great time, Meet Wednesday 5PM. at Hungry Jacks-. Trip Leader Ron (Moses) Dunkley Phone 8270 2457

APRIL 1997

Saturday 12TH Thru to 20TH Innaminka/Cooper Creek. Some Station/desert sand. About 2500km return. Family, beginners, bush camping. Good trip to test your camping equipment and skills. Requirement is a Desert Parks Pass, 27mhz CB, 2 Spare Tyres, 40 Litres of Water. Trip Leader Mike Scherer Phone 8270 3985.

Saturday 12th Thru to 27th. High Country. Hard to extremely Hard conditions. Approx. 3000km round trip. Bush Camping, unbelievable scenery, totally self sufficient. See Ted Bal for more details, Limit of 6 Vehicles Phone 8382 1932.



(continued)

APRIL 1997

Saturday 13TH/14TH Sand dunes of **PEAKE**. This is the only time we could book of Peake this year - so don't miss out - Great Weekend of leaning and driving big Sand Dunes. No Limit - \$10.00 per vehicle per day - Caravan and Camping/ Long Drop Toilets/ must be self sufficient - no water or food. come for the weekend - come for the day. Details contact Ted Bal 8382 1932.

MAY 1997

JUNE 1997

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

AUGUST 1997

SEPTEMBER 1997

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.

SIMPLY

Years ago my wife and I bought heaps of fancy gear to make our trips more comfortable. Over the years we've thrown most of that away. Now we take almost nothing from those early days, yet we are more comfortable than ever.

Some people refer to this as the 'KISS PRINCIPLE', 'Keep It Simple Stupid'. I don't know where the stupid came from. Keeping it simple is certainly not stupid, it's also less work and more comfortable.

We normally camp well off the beaten track, but on a recent trip to the top end we had no choice but to share organised camp grounds with numerous others. It was a time warp experience for us to watch the other people setting up elaborate camps, just as we used to do. Establishing their camps took so long that it seemed as soon as they'd finished, it was time to move on again.

The most noticeable accessory was the 'big bright light'. As soon as darkness fell almost every camp was illuminated by gas or electric powered flood lights. Everywhere we could see campers sitting in their camps, drinking and yarning. Both activities are improved with only the glow from a campfire.

We happily miss our bright gas lamp. We particularly miss replacing the mantle at every new camp. We spent a small fortune on these before we 'saw the light'. Now we sit with just the camp fire and in no time at all our eyes adjust. With our night vision we see so much more. The heavens reward us with a display of magnificent stars and small animals dropped in.

For eating we use simple head torches. They illuminate enough area to see what you are doing without lighting up the neighbouring camps. Both hands are free to operate utensils or lift your drink. When on trips with friends for the first time they have a few laughs at our expense, but we say nothing. Before the end of our first meal together they have usually changed their minds and are asking where they can buy their own headlamps.

If we are feeling posh, and are eating at a table, we sometimes use a small candle lantern. This spreads enough glow to see the food, but not enough to block out the stars and background.

Some of the tents we saw were truly marvels of fabric engineering, but what a chore. Naturally as children grow more space is needed. An alternative to these elaborate canvas mansions is to buy separate tents for the children. This makes the holiday an even bigger adventure for them. With a little help and

BETTER

guidance they soon learn the skills needed to make their tent comfortable and secure, and they enjoy the independence generated by putting up their own. In time they may even take over other chores. Well, we can all dream, can't we?

Our fires are small, just big enough to cook over. This reduces the amount of firewood we have to carry and provides as much campfire bonhomie as a larger one.

Bread cooked over a camp fire is superb, but you don't need elaborate equipment. Mix up the ingredients dry before you leave home. In camp make enough dough for your immediate needs. Simply stick it in the baking tin, let it rise in the sun and put the tin on a grid in your camp oven. You'll soon learn how to judge the fire and how long to let the bread cook.

On a recent trip we joined up with two other couples for a few days. They were keen to light a fire at every camp, but it was always too big and hot to cook over. They prepared their meals on a gas stove and were surprised that we carried off a small part of the coals to make a cooking fire. Food tastes better cooked over a wood fire. True the pots get covered in gum deposits that are impossible to remove, but this is only on the outside.

When water is scarce we always use tinned vegetables and cook them in their own juices. Simply open the tin, leaving the last inch of lid uncut and fold it back to form a handle. Teach your kids a little physics too. Why doesn't the paper burn? After you've served the vegetables, put the tin back on the fire. Now the paper burns, the fire cleans the metal, softens it and makes it easier to squash so that the tin takes up less room on the return journey.

Many people use an electric pump to inflate their air mattresses. Not only is this noisy, but three cornered jacks love these air bags. The result is usually an uncomfortable night and a wasted hour the following day trying to repair the puncture, to say nothing of frayed tempers. High density foam sleeping mats eliminate both these problems.

Simple living has an economic benefit. If you don't buy something it costs nothing and there is no maintenance. In the long term you save much more than the initial purchase price.

Take a bit of time and review your camping gear. Ask yourself if you really need the elaborate accessories on display at camping shows. We have found with less gear we have fewer chores and more time to enjoy the good life.

JANUARY LONG WEEKEND TRIP TO LAKE GEORGE

Present:

Ted & Marchin, Hubert, Lyn, Kimberly & Kate, Owen, Pam, Zeb, Laura & Claire, Steve, Barbara, Jessica & Ashley, Denny, Barbara & Zoe, David, Janet, Christopher & Josh, Simon, Jenny & Kai, Ken, Julie, Kaitlyn & Tarni, Paul & Cheryl, Mark, Linda, Stacey & Chelsea, Micheal, Isabelle, Emma & Andrew.

Unfortunately even with our new beaut turbo charged Pajero, we were still the last to arrive at Lake George. Despite many a plea that we had written a trip report before - no mercy was given and we got the job again.

Saturday morning saw us all ready to go and play in the sand dunes and have great fun watching or driving up some of the steeper dunes. After a camp-site lunch a leisurely drive into Beachport for ice creams. We did promise not to mention Denny getting bogged and the fearless rescuers getting bogged - but we couldn't help it. Thanks to Ted's good planning we were all back for a happy hour, or two or three! Hugo, sorry Hubert, and Lyn spent some time putting up a sun shelter which provided a good place to put all the nibbles, plus the added entertainment of watching them put it up. there was some strange male bonding with beer and silver balls - which Paul West won - so he says. A night drive finished off the day for most of the group, although Steve probably wished for a different route to the dunes as his tyre came off the rim and he had to turn back.

Sunday was a perfect summer's day, clear blue skies and not too hot. Lunch packed we all set off to drive to Robe and back. The trip across the dunes and over the beach stretches was smooth with very few stoppages along the way.

The afternoon was spent in different ways, some groups stayed on the beach for some cray fishing, another group went to a different beach to do some fishing and the rest looked around Robe and went for a swim. The journey back to camp was relatively uneventful. However, the girls did do some nature studies on the way back and are thinking of planning a nature study trip next year. (It's a long story so see Cheryl West, Linda or Isabelle for details - nearly all places are booked!!)

cont.

When we got back to camp some of us went back to the beach for a swim which was a fantastic way of relaxing after a day's driving, the waves were pretty big and everybody enjoyed themselves in the surf. Another Happy Hour followed and a good laugh was had by all, until the early hours!

During the weekend we collected some handy camping tips which everybody would like to share. Also the radio quote of the trip belongs to Hugo, sorry Hubert - "watch out for feral Jackaroos" as a jackaroo flew, literally, over the hill. The driver was not wearing a seat belt and his head connected and smashed the windscreen - a lesson to be learned!

Handy Hints for Mt Lofty Rangers

- Always put film in your camera before taking 8 pictures
- Plug in your fridge - it helps keep the food cold
- Put your seat belt on when flying over the crest of a hill - it saves the windscreen.
- Know where you put your anti-theft wheel key - it helps when your tyre goes down.
- Always pack champagne and two glasses to take to your partner when they are swimming.
- Always make sure there are lots of kids on the trip - it keeps yours entertained.
- Never be last there - you have to write the trip report.

All in all it was a fantastic trip and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to Ted and Marchin.

Isabelle and Michael Brett

Round 1
AUSTRALIAN OFF ROAD TITLES
12TH & 13TH OF APRIL 1997
TO BE HELD AT
WARNERTOWN
Southern Flinders Rangers

Recover Broken Down or Damaged Vehicles & Crew

In conjunction with the Suzuki Club to do recovery of the First Round of the Australian Off Road Titles, this event takes place on private property. The terrain consists of hills, open paddocks etc, on the Western side of the Southern Flinders Rangers. The event kicks off on the Friday night the 11th of April 1997 with a display, a band(thank you very much), dancing girls, the Rams Cheer squad and a Fireworks display at the Port Pirie Oval. Entry is free up to 6.30pm, then a fee will be payable by every one in attendance of approx \$5.00. Racing starts with the Prologue on Saturday about 11.30am. Recovery vehicles are required for this section. The main race is on Sunday 13th, this starts about 8.30am. Each lap is about 70km long. Each recovery vehicle will patrol a set area and will require a tow rope or strap, a CB radio or UHF radio, Aerial for flag, and First Aid Kit. A Fire Extinguisher will be supplied by the organisers. Entry fee into the race area is free of charge to Recovery Vehicles. Recovery Vehicles are the only non-racing vehicles allowed in the track area during the event. Most of the big name 4WD vehicles are competing — Last year I timed a Mitsubishi Pajero at a speed of 176 km/h on the dirt.

There is no limit to the number of vehicles attending, the more the better. Camping will be at the Crystal Brook Caravan Park (Lawn sites) which is about 15km from the track and about 25 km from Port Pirie. There is camping at the track but it is very open and rocky.

For further details contact **PHILL DOHNE** phone **82702503** if you would like to attend. Also the number of persons in the vehicle as passes have to be arranged.

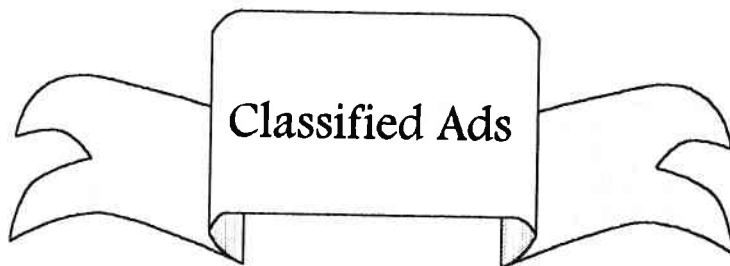
Asked by John Dodd to write a club report
So members would appreciate better
Some of the benefits the club can
Expect to gain from the education courses
Supplied by the DAU to help
Strengthen clubs with their driver training
On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd February 97
Ron Dunkley, Ken Bradey, John Dodd, Ted Bal and my
Self John Keay attended Cavan.

Courses already conducted cover Advisor and Trainer.
Our club has been very well presented
Using every opportunity to educate Mt. Lofty
Ranger's members means we have a
Suitably trained body of people to start serious
Education of members in 1997.

ASSESSORS COURSE

The Assessors Course conducted by Steve Collins of Wascol and assisted by John Dodd was to enable those who had already taken the advisor and Trainer courses to include Assessor to their repitoir, which meanst they will be available to those members who have done training to assess their competency and attain certificates.

The course was attended by 15 students and was interesting but sure made us all look, listen, learn and scratch our heads, but a little exercise is always good for one!!!!



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SOCIAL COMMITTEE NOTES

Happy New Year to Everyone!

As before stated we hope to book you early this year for the Social events so that you know what dates to write on your calendar.

February - 15th & 16th

Our first event for 1997 is the Interclub Raft Races at Clayton.

May - Sunday 25th

Mark down May 25th(Sunday) and we will let you know at a later date what we have planned - whatever the case it is bound to be a family fun day.

June - Saturday 8th

Saturday night June 28th - An Irish Christmas Dinner - venue to be advised - as last years dinner went so well we thought we would do it again!

December - Sunday 7th

Christmas Picnic break-up. Last Years picnic was well attended so we will organise something similar this year - venue to be advised.

Mark these dates on your calendar and here's to a fun-packed 1997. As was the case last year the monthly cinema screenings will continue. We will let you know at each meeting the film titles and you can put your name on the board if you want us to book for you.

See you at the club meetings

Going on a trip?
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NEXT
MEETING
14th of
APRIL
7.30p.m.

John Dodd
Driving Instructor

Log book Training
Driving Test
4x4 Training

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Mobile 0412085625



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Sell, Buy or Exchange

Sell - Roof Radio Console - Suits NG Pajero with Sun-roof. Fully Upholstered in beige vinyl - \$50.00 Contact Dean Dayman 8296 6390.

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Sell - Allen Towbar (2 Tonne towing capacity) to suit Toyota Landcruiser HZJ 75.
\$100.00
set of five tyre and rims 31 x 10.5 R15 \$700.00ono(second spare for free)
set of Toyota Landcruiser Manuals/Chassis and Body repair Manual &
2F Engine repair manual \$50.00 the lot.
Contact Ted Bal Mobile 0411223555 Bus Hrs or 8382 1963 a/h

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Sell - Codan Auto Tune whip antenna 9350(still Packaged) Compatible with
Codan H.F. S.S.B. transceiver types 9323/9313/852B/8525B \$900.00
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Annexe reversed to cover Draw bar, Draw extended to accommodate Fridge
& Battery box- Set-up for serious OFF Road work \$7000.00 ono
4 Pajero Standard Steel rims and tyres \$ 150.00 ono
1 Sunshade Full Length 4WD Mesh Bottomed ROOF RACK fully adjust-
able Gutter mounts - used only once \$ 300.00 ono
Contact Don Gray 015 794529 Wk

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

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MOUNT LOFTY RANGERS

4X4 CLUB

