



Rangers' Review

Volume 3 No. 8

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

Feb 1998



Our Clubs entrant in the Blackwood Christmas Street Pageant

Sponsored by Alltrac 4WD

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

As a club we had a busy time in December with our Christmas meeting, the family party and the Blackwood Apex Christmas Parade. January saw Teds' Lake George pilgrimage which I'm sure was enjoyed by all who attended.

The President for Vice has a write up in this issue so I can get away with a report on the Christmas Parade.

We had two vehicles on volunteered, John C's Patrol and Peter the Tree Fella's Ute.

Many hands make light work, even if chaos is the result. With this in mind, a group of us met at Edenwood Auto's a couple of hours before the parade to prepare the vehicles. John had persuaded the Christmas Tree Farm to loan us a tree for the ute, we had lots a decorations and some idiot even produced a can of Santa Snow (later to be known as spray on paint stripper)

The Zupps and Ludbeys arrived with kids in tow to swell the swarm of noise makers already present, all had a good time decorating the vehicles. Amid cries of "don't worry, it'll just wash off" the idiot with the spray on paint stripper attacked the Chrissy tree and John's pride and joy. The site looked like a Canadian blizzard before Peter threatened him with serious injury bringing the rampage to a stop.

Off we went, in our colourful chariots, four hapless adults and an unknown number of over excited Christmas decorations waving balloons and flags.

All adults were provided with the latest in silly Santa hats. John was overcome by the spirit of the moment and nearly ran over a few bystanders in his endeavours to get near them to wish them all the best for the festive season.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, saw our banner and flag amidst all the Santa Snow and children. Me thinks it was a good public relations

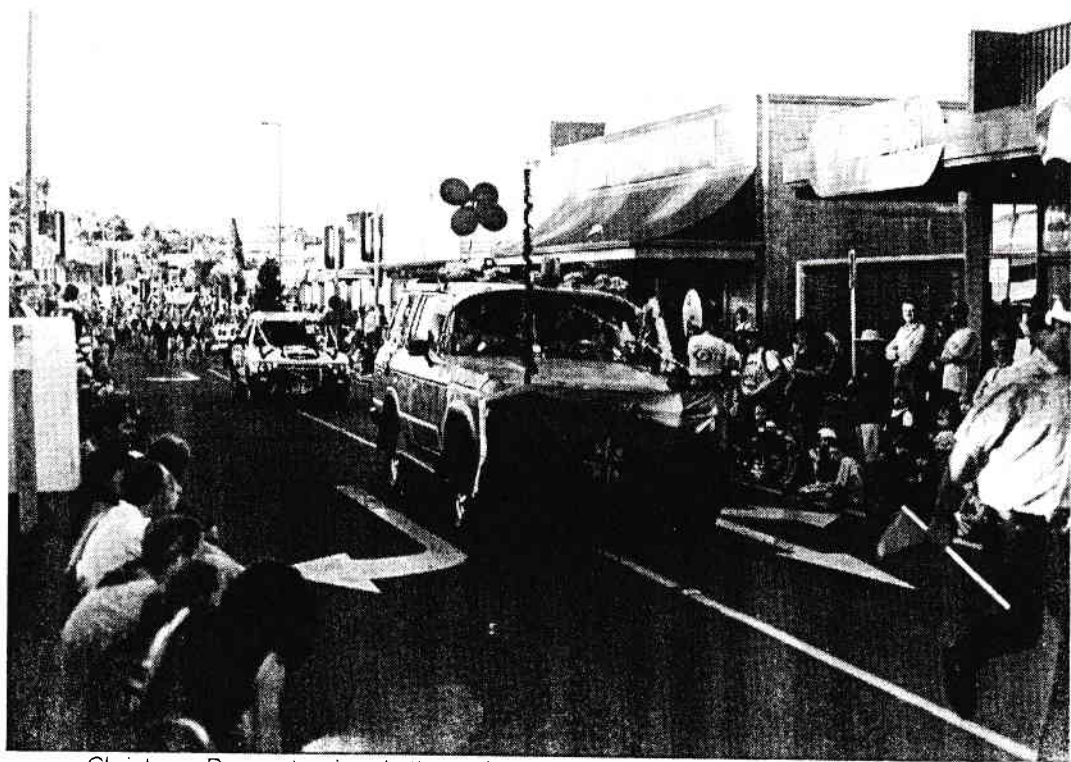
exercise, not to mention the fun we all had.

Later twas time to tidy up the vehicles. The idiot was again heard to say, "Don't worry, it'll just wash off, and anyway the guy who owns the tree won't mind". Simon just shook his head and walked to the fridge.

You can still see Merry Christmas on the side of John's car. I think the paintwork was on the way out anyway. Surprisingly, snow covered Christmas trees don't sell well either and Danny is still wondering why Peter bought a tree for Christmas when he can get hundreds for nothing. \$40 well spent I thought!

next year, no, this year, we will be there again, Peter with his white tree and all the excited, noisy decorations. Better planning, more decorations, John has some idea about suspending the banner above the vehicle, he was checking out the scouts display. Peter is buying a gun, just in case, but the guy with the Santa Snow was heard to say he has found some new stuff which he is **SURE** will "just wash off".

Welcome to '98, wee you on the track.



Christmas Pageant arrives in the main street of Blackwood



FEBRUARY 1998

FRIDAY 13th to MONDAY 16th - Glenelg River Gorge - The lower Glenelg River National Park is truly a magnificent area with something for everyone. Take a 3 ½ hour cruise on the 'Nelson Endeavour' to Princess Margaret Rose Caves. Cruise starts 1p.m. on Saturday - cost \$15.00 per adult/\$7.00 per child. Tour of Princess Margaret Rose Caves cost \$4.80/\$1.60. Camping is booked at Wallson Hole \$6.00 per camp site up to 6 people **Trip Leader**

SATURDAY 14TH to SUNDAY 15TH 8th ANNUAL CLAYTON BAY RAFT RACE -To be held at the Clayton Bay Caravan Park. come down Friday night & make a full weekend of it FUN & GAMES Cost of Camping \$5.00 per night Co-ordinators Peter Chapman ph 3817231 or Rodney Curtis ph 82786280

SATURDAY 21th to SUNDAY 22rd - The Coorong *cancel*
Time and Tide - Sand driving/water crossings. Popular fishing spots and magnificent sand driving areas
Trip Leader wanted

MARCH 1998

SUNDAY 1ST - Southern Mystery Trip Can't tell you much more other than it will a great day and by the bookings on the Trips Board it is fast filling up. FIRST TIME TRIP LEADER MARK AND LYNDIA MOSS Leaving Club Rooms Blackwood 8.30am sharp.

FRIDAY 6TH THRU TO SUNDAY 8TH THE FRIENDLY FROLIC
THE 1998 SAAFWO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT TOWITTA PARK
Cost is \$20.00 adult and \$12.00 per child under 12 year of age
The price includes camp fees for 2 days or 2 weeks (that's up to you) A three course Dinner meal, pre Dinner drinks (wine cheese etc) and entertainment by Bush poet Bob Magor and Frank Way

Fees paid in full no later than February 14th
Co-ordinator TED BAL Phone 8382 1963

FRIDAY 27th TO MONDAY 30th - Coffin Bay
Whispering Sands-Yangie trail to Yangie Bay -Sir Issac Point. Camping at Black Springs and Sensation Beach
Trip Leader wanted *Paul West*



APRIL 1998

**FRIDAY 10TH TO MONDAY 13TH(Easter Weekend) PINK LAKES
AND BEYOND**

THE SUNSET COUNTRY

Trip Leader Wanted

**FRIDAY 24TH TO MONDAY 27TH(Long Weekend) JUSSIEU
PENINSULA**

Cape Domington to Cape Catastrophe, Port Lincoln. Great fishing spots, historical area, rugged coast line. What more could you ask ???

Trip Leader Wanted

MAY 1998

FRIDAY 15TH to MONDAY 18TH - GAWLER RANGES

Easy highway drives - some dirt roads through the Gawler Ranges visiting Kinggoonya, The Old Sturt Highway and the Gawler Range's short cuts

Trip Leader Wanted

**SATURDAY 16TH to MONDAY 18TH(Adelaide Cup Weekend)
BURRA CREEK GORGE**

Great area to visit - Camping area has toilets. Enjoyable the walks and drives, Take a yabbie net and have a good time. Firewood to be taken in
Contact Brain or Joyce Gray Phone 8278 1576

**SATURDAY 23RD For 5 weeks TO SUNDAY 28TH JUNE
CANNING STOCK ROUTE AND AROUND**

Three experienced 4WDdrivers have 1 or 2 position on a planned trip. Will need to be self sufficient and capable of travelling 1200 kms without a fuel stop. Best time of the year to travel the Canning. Must advise within next 4 weeks. Contact DEAN DAYMAN Phone 8296 6390

JUNE 1998

FRIDAY 5TH TO MONDAY 8TH(Queens Birthday Weekend)

FLINDERS RANGERS Visit and explore the Paralana Hot Springs at Arkaroola, The Aligator Gorge, The crumbling Ghost Town of Sliding Rock hidden in Lonely Valley.

Trip Leader Wanted

JULY 1998

A Message from the Vice President

For some reason I have become Vice President of the Mount Lofty Rangers and the Mitsubishi 4WD Owners Club. It is the expectation of both clubs that i will nominate for the Presidents position. While this does not cause me any problems, some members may feel that being President of two clubs is unwise. I see no conflict because the clubs are not in opposition to each other, but have the same aims of Training, Trips and Social.

One option that has been put to me was that Susan and I resign from one of the clubs. This is not an option that I would consider because both clubs offer aspects of 4 W Driving that suit us.

Another option is for someone else to nominate for the Presidency and leave me to re-nominate for Vice President. I urge you to consider nominating for a Committee position even though you may feel unsure of how you would handle the job. Remember, we all started on the Committee with no experience, but have learnt a lot on the way. I hope that many of the existing Committee will consider re-nominating and keep some continuity going within the Committee.

I welcome any feedback from members on the above to help me solve what is perceived by some to be a dilemma.

Clyde Paton

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NATIONAL PIONEER WOMENS HALL OF FAME
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND, 1998 2:00-5:00 P.M.

VENUE: **GILLES PLAINS AND HAMPSTEAD R.S.L.** SUB BRANCH
MANNINGHAM

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NATIONAL ORGANISATION
DEDICATED TO

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE

AND

HONOURING OUR PIONEER WOMEN

FOR INFORMATION PHONE: KATHY WHALEN (08) 8344-2829
STATE LIASON OFFICER

East of Alice Springs

Alice Springs is always a great 4WD experience for South Australian's with areas like Uluru, Kings Cannon, Boggy Hole, Palm Valley, Larapinta and Namatjira Drives and the West Macdonnell Ranges to travel too -all on the west side of the Stuart Highway . But few people venture on the eastern side past Emily and Jessie Gaps just out of Alice on The Ross River Highway. So this trip was to discover what sights were East of Alice Springs. The month was August last year and a convoy of four vehicles left Adelaide on a cold and dreary Saturday. Those fortunate people were

Mount Lofty Rangers

Dean & Kathy Dayman

Auto Cat(Trip Leader)

Henry & Marion Stendara

Black Panther

Mitsubishi 4WD

Neil & Jan Hinds

Desert Cat

Sid & Pat Williams

Trooper

Our first days run was a ho-hum drive up Highway No1 to Woomera where we set up camp, dusted our vehicles, made a few alteration and had tea at the Woomera Hotel. That was to be the last of the bitumen until we hit Alice Springs. For the next six days we ventured on all grades of dirt roads/tracks and found that Bulldust was still alive and well in the out-back. Most of us had done the Borefield Track, so for something different we decided to cut up a local track between Woomera and Roxby Downs at the abandoned Purple Downs Homestead passing Roxby Downs HS, Old Parakylia HS and arriving at Billa Kilina HS. From was here would seek permission to cross from the homestead to Strangway RS on the Oodnadatta Track. From where the Purple Downs turn off was we headed north up the "Main Road" as it was called. It was basically sandy, with numerous small sand hills and patches of bulldust holes. Although no rain had fallen for some time, the last rains/floods in January were still evident by the green country side with many patches of Sturt's Desert Pea growing on the track it-self. Past Old Parakylia HS the surrounds changed into the stony desert terrain and the vegetation disappeared. One of the highlights of this area was on coming to the top of a crest we could see this mirage of water to our left hand side. It stopped with us for kilometre until slowly it got closer and closer until the mirage became this gigantic lake teeming with bird life. At Billa Kilina we were informed that it was the result of the heavy rains in January, and yes, it was fresh water. It just shouldn't have been there!! With the blessing of the Billa Kilina HS manager and with the consoling knowledge that the Port Adelaide Football Club Bash had gone down this same track only a week earlier, we thought we were in for a quick run into Strangways RS, -our camp for the night. Those poor Bash Cars!, they must have been wrecks by the time they got through - it took us a lot longer than we had reckoned, in fact we had to camp 30 kilometre from our original goal. This stoney desert track, with its washaways and corrugations, slowed us down to a crawl. But thats what the outback is about and it was a track we had not driven on before. Once on the Oodnadatta Track it was the usual smooth drive up to Ooonadatta for fuel then pressing onwards to Albega River for the next camp site. It was here both Neil and myself discovered we had tyres going down. Too tired to mend them, we changed over to our spares and promised to fix them at the next camp spot. This story would not be complete if it was not logged that the next morning, while we were all busy packing up, a loud exclamation

of "oh shit!", broke the serene morning air and on looking up there was Neil at the back of his vehicle with clouds of white something belching out from inside it. He emerging from this cloud looking the the 'Ghost of the Outback' explaining that while shoving the sleeping bags in a small space he had accidentally pulled off the pin to the powder fire extinguisher and, well, you can put the rest together. From that point Neil should have turned back because if something was going to happen it happened and to you know who, and it did happen. Anyway we eventual got on the move passing Hamilton HS, followed the old Ghan Line from Erina RS, up to New Crown and across to Finke. Some amassing history and pioneering by our forefathers/mothers could be seen along this section. At Finke we fuelled up and headed for Chambers Pillar. If you haven't experienced this track then you must because believe me you will only do it once in your life time. On leaving Finke you cross over the Finke River in a cloud of bulldust and follow the old Ghan Line. Its fun to start with, the track is smooth with a few whoop d' doo's. Then the whoop d' doo's get closer and closer and soon you are feeling sea sick. But they don't care, they get higher and after awhile it's not fun any more so you head for the railway line its self, that's at least flat, expect for the gutters that were left when they removed the sleepers, so you are now having the excrement shaken out of you, and just to add a touch of sadism they left all the spikes on the the track and when, like Neil and I, you have a flat spare tyre, all those pins are pointing at the four tyres on the ground with one goal in mind. So after a while and with scrambled brains you head for the whoop d' doo's again but by this time they are bigger and closer and riding out a typhoons at sea would be enjoyable. There is some relief however in the form of a third track which splits and rejoins the other two options in several places. When we could get on it, it was like heaven, and so we progressed doing 38 kilometre in 3 hours, leaving us well short of Chambers Pillar. That night no one was going to mend tyres, cold beers and bottles of Port were called for instead. The next morning I took one of the best Photo's I've taken of a sunrise. It made it worth while. Recovered, the next morning we headed of again to much of the same but by now we had our sea legs and rattles of the car didn't seem so loud, the spikes were still snapping at our tyres but Oh what the heck!. Reaching Bundoona RS we called into Alice Well on the Hugh River. Back to the main track which would take us to Maryvale HS and then on to Chambers Pillar, the worst was now over. Chambers Pillar is one of those wonders of the outback that is a must and not that far from Alice Springs. Again out flaties sat on the back of of our vehicles, after all, why skin ya knuckles when some one in Alice will do it for you, we're so close!. Just sit back and enjoy the sights. From here we had to drive back onto the main Ghan track and headed for Rainbow Valley via the Hugh River Stock Route. Some how we missed the turn off and drove into Alice Springs, calling in on Ewaninga Rock Carvings on the way. A sharp LH turn at Stuart Highway and we were back on track for Rainbow Valley. The signage to Rainbow Valley is not marked as a turn off and could be easily missed if you were not aware of it (At least a lagging tail end charlie didn't, even if the other three did) So from last to first and with some concerns as to 'well I'm here where the hell are the others?' we set up camp and reserved what little camping area there was, as overnight stops at Rainbow Valley are not encouraged. We were soon a flock again and all enjoying another one of the highlight of East of Alice Springs. After a pleasant evening and morning walking around the Rainbow Valley area (when you go there don't do what many do - drive up, look at the face



Neil & Jan Hinds in 'Desert Cat' on the track from Billa Kilina
heading for the Oodnadatta Track



Bundoona R.S., halfway on the old Ghan rail line

and drive away. Spent at least a half day exploring). The return trip back up the Stuart Highway and into Alice Springs was uneventful. A shower was welcomed by all, we all skated around a few supermarkets, Neil & I got our punctures mended for \$15.00 - No hassle, no fuss, no skinned knuckles. The next day we were off again down the Ross River Highway, calling into Emily and Jessie Gaps, Corroborree Rock and taking a short but beautiful 4WDrive up the Benson River which is situated just before Trephena Gorge Nature Park. This park offers a number of walking trails as well as good camping areas. After setting up camp we had time for The Ridgetop Walk. Next morning we again set off on foot from our camp sight and tackled the not too arduous Panorama Walk. The wild flowers were out in full bloom at this time of the year and were in there glory on this trail. With vehicles packed we did one last feature, John Hayes Rockhole. For a bit of climbing and rock scrambling this was an adventure not to miss, mind you by the time we had completed the circuit the old legs were starting to ask a few questions, like "can we just sit for a while". Must tell a little story of our camp site at Trephena Gorge. As an owner of a metal detector and having taken it away with us many times and not used it I decided to have a play around just before packing up. After an hour or so and having the only tent still standing I was given a was loud and clear message. I had had a bit of encouragement by finding a 10c and \$2.00 coin plus about 8 tea spoons of all shape and sizes. Not bad! however as trip leader I'd better pack up as the rest of the party were waiting. While doing this Henry Stendara had picked up the detector and had just walked off with it when it let out this loud squawk. Scrapping away a cover of dirt Henry announced, 'look! I've found a Seiko watch!'. mumble, mumble as I finished packing my tea spoons away. From the John Hayes Rockhole we drove to Arltunga Historical Reserve Goldfields. Here we were shown an old mine where for 11 years, people chiselled out of granite a small amount of gold and a hole as big as the size if an ordinary house. The area is quite extensive and as dusk was upon us we left the Reserve knowing we would be back in about a week. Once leaving, we were on part of the Northern Territories 4WD Explorers Track which goes through Ambalindum Homestead to the Plenty Highway. Camping in a dry river bed that night we enjoyed a camp oven roast under the stars. The next day we called into Ambalindum to seek permission to use the Cattleman's Stock Pass on our return. With permission received and a question as to why were we asking as most people just drive where ever and did what ever they wanted, he was pleasantly surprised by our request. It would appear that respect for other peoples property is still along way off and areas are being closed due to the ignorance of others. The Garden HS is one where the managers have closed all tracks to the public - others are following. Along with Aboriginal Lands, a big slice of Australia is being shut away. The Northern Territory with its network of Explorer Tracks is keeping some access open. That night we reached The Gentree Camping Grounds, a great area and good camping with another chance to shower. With the help of mud maps from the park several enjoyable day trips can be had from this area. Of course its main claim to fame is its excursions into the garnet fields nearby. Great fun but its still cheaper to buy the stones at the jewellery shop. If this does not please you, for \$5.00 you can hire some golf sticks and loose a ball on the 'golf' course. At this point we were half way through our trip and at the most northerly point. From here it was all down hill and heading home-but still plenty to see

Continued next publication

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8th ANNUAL CLAYTON BAY

(RACE ORGANISER)

RAFT RACE

Being held at CLAYTON BAY CARAVAN PARK
FEBRUARY 14th - 15th 1998

Come down Friday night & make a full weekend
of FUN & GAMES!!

PLENTY OF SAFE WATER FOR THE KIDS..

Cost of Camping :- \$5. per night (covers
Saturday Night Entertainment).

OR Just come for the day!!!! SUNDAY - RACE DAY

Subaru Club offer a Sausage Sizzle & drinks
on race day.

The RANGERS have sites booked as usual, plenty
of room for every-one. Look for the raft -
"RANGER 1"

As mentioned, at the last meeting,
WE NEED PADDLERS - Male & Female.

** So come on, put your hand up.

Please see Peter or Rodney at the next
Meeting.

Let's make this next event, **A CLUB EFFORT.**

PETER CHAPMAN 83817231.....RODNEY CURTIS 82786280

Your Committee

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