



Rangers' Review

Volume 6 No. 7

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.
PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

October 2000

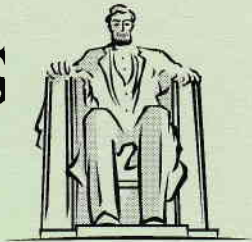


Our Social Secretaries Canoodling on the Cooper – See Report Page 13

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PRESIDENTS REPORT



The big event for September 2000 was, of course, two weeks of Olympic Games and I for one was very proud of our Australian athlete's achievements in a record number of sports. This was history in the making. So we will forgive ourselves if not much happened this month – having said that a number of trips did take place.

The Marne River Gorge was a great destination for our daytrip of the month taking in spectacular views and plenty of running water. Long weekends are a good time to go and check out some close and not so close destinations. What seemed like half the club went to the Burra Creek Gorge in the North Mount Lofty Ranges (good name for a club there!) and the other half to the Flinders Ranges. Full trip reports will no doubt follow but from what I gleaned over the radio as the two convoys returned separately to Adelaide, "bearings" was a shared theme. In the case of Burra Gorge, which we camped at, the bearings were those of Tonka and his new toy, a GPS unit – I've never tracked down so many "man overboards" in my life. On the Flinders trip it was reportedly front wheel bearings causing (sea) sickness for Toolman. I can't wait to read all about what else happened.

As I never tire of saying, my gratitude goes to those who give considerable time and planning to make club trips interesting and enjoyable. Like the Olympic Games, it is the volunteers who make organisations such as the Mount Lofty Rangers run so well and they should never be taken for granted. Don't forget the 4WD show from 13-15 October 2000 – I should have full details at the October meeting and thank you to all those who volunteered to "person" our stand at the last meeting.

That's all from me – see you at the next meeting and to all our new members please don't be a stranger, come on a trip, we'd love to see you.

Regards,

Mike Brett – The Tourists

SOUTHERN VALES WINERIES

TRIP REPORT

BY KERRIGAN COLE

Sunday 20th August 2000

Well, here goes my first trip report being as I am, relatively speaking, still a new member, I thought that I could get away with this for at least a couple of years – “First Mistake!”

All started well enough though. Mark phoned me at home on Friday evening to inform me that Sunday’s trip would be starting later than originally planned. We were to meet in the car park of Norman’s Winery and would I mind phoning fellow new member, John (Sporty), and inform him of the change of plans? “No Problem” I said, “happy to do my bit”.

Great ! Some of the pressure was off, even I could not be late for a 10.00am start!

Come Sunday morning, I get a phone call from John. It was 9.30am.

“Where is everybody?” he asked. Well, this could have been a breakdown in communication on my behalf – or maybe it was John’s way of telling me that there was no way he was writing a trip report – because the last one in the car park gets the guernsey ! Or so I thought - “Second Mistake!”

Anyway, I had my youngest son, Marcello, in my vehicle and had picked up my “pommy” relatives from Glenelg, but if I did not get a move on, I could be late myself !

On the drive up to Norman’s Winery, Marcello kept on reminding all in the vehicle that “we could not be late as his Dad would have to write a trip report!” It was with much relief that I arrived just before 10.00am and found that I was not the last vehicle to arrive. I was off the hook – or so I thought ! (I’ll get back to this story later.....)

So, now my attempt at the “official stuff”....

There was another excellent turn-out of members (16 vehicles, I think). It was a chilly morning, so I think all concerned were happy to climb into their vehicles and hit the road. I had my UHF radio tuned to channel 27 (“Third Mistake”). I thought the airway was incredibly quiet, no humorous comments from the convoy, and it was after some time before I realised I was on the wrong channel (thanks to Denny informing another member that they were also on the wrong channel!)

(Continued on page 7)

News In Brief

The 4WD Show is being held THIS COMING WEEKEND 13th – 15th October and as always we have a site to represent our club. If you have any photos or ideas on what we could display please speak to Michael Brett.

There is still a need for more marshalls, helpers and prize donations needed for the 2001 Clayton Raft Race. See Mark Moss if you can help in any way.

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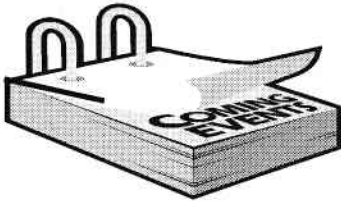
New Telephone Numbers

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Keep your 4WD in TOP condition. *Alltrac 4WD* can service your vehicle and stamp your service booklet to ensure warranty conditions are adhered to. Our service technicians work on 4WD vehicles every day and they are 4WD enthusiasts as well. This gives them the knowledge of knowing exactly what to look for when servicing *your* vehicle and the exceptional standard of workmanship required to ensure that you don't get let down when away on the beaten track. Remember, for 4WD service, repairs, and wheel alignment *Alltrac 4WD* are *the* experts. We have quality checking systems in place to ensure that the work performed on your vehicle is totally and independently double checked prior to release to you, so that you can head off to the outback with absolute confidence.



The "Oasis" formerly known as Yaningurie Water Hole near Innamincka



SOCIAL SCENE

If you would like to attend any of the outings suggested, please register by putting your name on the appropriate list and support your interest. Any further questions on these or any other outings please call Jane Raphael on 8358 2552.

Old Tailem Town

Sunday 22nd October 2000

Time: 10.30am (for morning tea)

Come and join us at the largest pioneer village in Australia - Plenty to see and do - 13 streets, 105 buildings (see brochure on board). Cost for groups of 15 or more \$9 adults and \$4 children. Free tea, coffee and biscuits with each adult entry. Picnic areas with BBQ's to BYO lunch or you can buy pies and pasties etc.

2000 Christmas Picnic

Sunday 10th December 2000

Time: 11.00am – 5.00pm

Loftia Park Picnic Area 2

Parents please organise a wrapped and labelled gift for your children up to \$5 for Santa to have in his sack and bring to November meeting. BBQ available for those interested or BYO picnic lunch and don't forget to bring a desert to share!

Upcoming social outings for next year should include:

- ☺ 2 1/2 hour cruise on the Murray River.
- ☺ Rock Climbing.
- ☺ Water Skiing. (The Social Secretary doesn't know about it yet though!)

*"Views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of Mt Lofty Ranger's Inc."*

(Continued from page 3)

That was better – now I could hear the various compliments or otherwise between members. As usual it did not take long for Mark to get us off the bitumen, and onto the tracks.

This was my third day trip with the club, and on each occasion so far, there has been a different look to the surrounding scenery / vegetation. After some time of driving on dirt roads / sand and tracks and occasional bitumen, we reached our first challenge – a creek crossing, with reasonably steep embankments at either end. Now while some members made the crossing look relatively straight forward, I suspect all hit the creek and crossed up and over the embankment at some speed whilst almost collecting a tree stump at the top of the embankment! Unfortunately some of us, including myself, got stuck in the creek !!

The first vehicle to require pulling out with a winch extension strap was a Pathfinder. Next vehicle through was a Patrol. No problems. Next it was my turn, and it came as some surprise to me that I got stuck as I was driving a Landrover!

I had three, maybe four attempts to get across the creek, but I know others still had confidence in my vehicle, none less than Shaun, who thought he would get a closer look at a Discovery by sitting on my spare wheel as I made my last attempt to cross the creek ! Alas, it was not meant to be – I was stuck in the creek with Shaun squatting on my spare wheel. After a bit of stirring, I was kindly towed out by a Patrol.

Once out of the creek, I immediately had time to reflect on what possibly could have gone wrong – Was it incorrect tyres fitted? Poor driving technique? Or vehicle type?

Just as quickly, I made a decision to change my tyres to all terrain type.

Seriously though, the Patrol's did very well, as did Tim's Rodeo, although he really gunned it through the creek. Some damage was caused to vehicles, my carpets got damp (no problems with drying out). John damaged the front bumper on his Kia when he collided with the tree stump. Good thing the vehicle dragging him out of the creek stopped when it did - although I do think that John is on a mission to prove that Kia's are indestructible ! All in all, other than damage to the front bumper, it was pretty exciting stuff.

Michael (The Pres) and Tail End Charlie drove around the creek crossing.

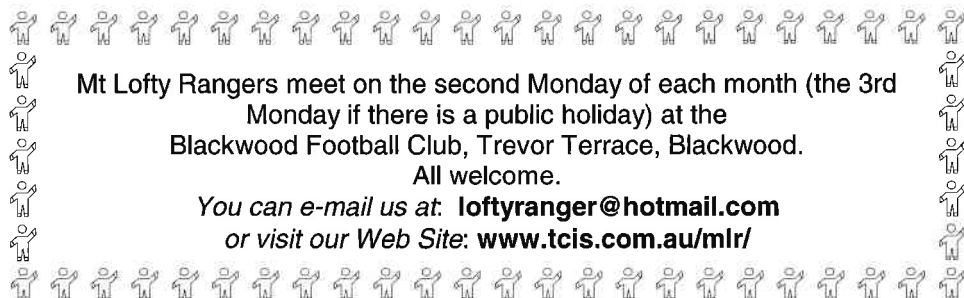
Probably because I had wasted so much time in the water and had personally gone a long way to denting the Landrover's reputation! There was some final excitement at the creek crossing as two trail bikes infiltrated our crowd, and quite kindly gave us a demonstration of how easy it is to cross a creek on bikes!

(Continued on page 16)

Calendar of Events

October – November 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 OCT.	9 Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Old Tailem Town	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3 Adv. High Country	4 Adv. High Country
5 Adv. High Country	6 Adv. High Country	7 Mel- bourne Cup Day	8 Adv. High Country	9 Adv. High Country	10 Adv. High Country	11 Adv. High Country



Mt Lofty Rangers meet on the second Monday of each month (the 3rd Monday if there is a public holiday) at the Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood. All welcome.

You can e-mail us at: loftyranger@hotmail.com
 or visit our Web Site: www.tcis.com.au/mlr/



Upcoming Trips

NOVEMBER 2000

ADVANCED HIGH COUNTRY TRIP – 3rd – 12th

This course is for those who would like to get their Advanced 4WD Certificate. Vehicle must be up to the challenge as must participants.
Details: Ted Bal 8382 1963

KUITPO DAY TRIP – Date to be confirmed (hopefully Mid November)

We are hoping to obtain permission to visit Kuitpo Forest. Will keep you posted on our success.
Details: Tim Byrne 8322 1324

BOYS FISHING WEEKEND – 24th – 26th

As one of the editors of this magazine is a woman – I have no idea on where you boys are going or what you are doing.
Details: Tim Byrne 8322 1324

DECEMBER 2000

HIGH COUNTRY FAMILY TRIP – 27th – January 6th 2001.

Victorian High Country and Ottway Ranges.
Designed as a family orientated trip radiating out from fixed camping sites to eliminate constant packing up of equipment. Basic training is minimal requirement. **FULL – NO POSITIONS AVAILABLE.**
Details: Mark Moss 8383 6324

Sheryl Penno F.G.A.A.

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STOP PRESS

Christmas is coming FAST

With Christmas coming quicker than most of us wish to believe, why not get some of the food items out of the way early. Christmas Puddings, Cakes and Mince Pies can be ordered through me and they will be delivered at the meeting on 11th December 2000.

The prices are as follows:

1kg Pudding -	\$14.85-Serves 6-8 people
500g Pudding -	\$ 8.25 Serves 4-5 people
150g Pudding -	\$ 3.85 Serves 1-2 people
Mince Pies –	\$5.50 per 1/2 dozen
Iced Cakes –	Prices start from \$12.00
Festive Fruit & Nut Cakes –	\$15.00

All prices are including 10% GST.

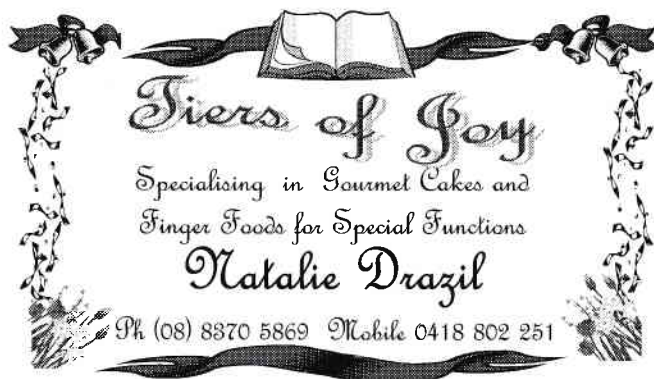
They are all presented ready for gift giving as well.

If you are interested, please give me a call on 8370 5869 or 0418 802 251 to discuss your Christmas needs, or speak with Allan or myself at the meetings.

Orders close on the 13th November 2000 which is the meeting night.

Natalie & Allan Drazil (The Lizards)

Tiers of Joy



Four Wheel Drive Courses

SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit

Unit 2

9 Cardiff Court

Cavan

Contact: Greg Goding – 8387 3118 AH

Mobile: 0418 807 437

Basic 4WD Certificate

Waiting list available for a course to run before the end of the year.

Advanced 4WD Course

3rd – 12th November 2000 with Ted Bal.

Practical 10 days of great time in high country

Sand driving to be conducted elsewhere.

Cost \$25 per manual.



Patrolling the tracks – McLaren Vale 20th August 2000 (Report page 3)



MT LOFTY RANGERS

ITEMS FOR SALE

Lets Promote Our Club!!!

Cloth Badges	\$6.00
Car Stickers	\$2.50
Name Badges	
Initial 2 on joining	\$2.50
Additional	\$6.00
Replacement	\$6.00
Sand Flags	\$2.50
Tyre Plugs	\$7.50

Please see Hubert Orbons for the above purchases 8278 8142.

Windcheaters (fleecy lined)	\$29.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on)</i>	
Rugby Tops	\$52.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on)</i>	
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$25.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on)</i>	
Caps <i>(including logo embroidered on)</i>	\$15.00

If you require clothing please speak to Max Almond 8278 3848.

ITEMS FOR LOAN

Books	Recovery Kit
Club Banner	Tirfer Winch
Club Flag	Puncture Repair Kit *
GPS Promotional Videos	First Aid Kit *
Maps	2 x Lightweight Shelters with sides.

* *Please replace used items*

Please see Michael Brett for any items you wish to loan 8387 1163.

Happy Birthday

Isabelle Brett	14th October	Allan Drazil	11th November
Brian Gray	11th November	<i>Please share your birthdays with us!</i>	

Innamincka

Part 3 – The Final Chapter

Saturday 15th July – Day 8

The last morning in camp and we were roused by Hubert's stirring bugle call with the strict instructions to be off by 8.30am. Yeah Yeah! And surprisingly, we were on the way precisely, to the well renditioned song by the two young Drazil boys of "Hit the road Jack, and don't you come back, no more, no more, no more, no more" over the radio.

There was the obligatory refuelling and ice cream stop at Innamincka and Nick had to get a tyre change on his Musso, which cost was comparable to city prices. No one could accuse the local businesses of being ripoffs. Their service, hospitality and prices were exceptional. We left Innamincka at 10.00am.

Coming up we came on the last part of the old Strezlecki track. On return we went by the new track, which was a bone shaker by compari-

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(Continued from page 13)

son for the first 50kms, then we turned West and the going was fine. Lunch time stop was at the same beautiful big fresh Yaningurie water hole, more like a lake, at which we had lunch on the way up. Quite an unexpected feature to find such a large fresh expanse of water out in that type of country, complete with birdlife and fish, small as they were. A real oasis.

We then set off to Lyndhurst which was uneventful except for the driver of a big and dusty semi-trailer who accused us of referring to him on radio of being selfish and illegitimate or some such thing because he wasn't letting us past. He was reassured it wasn't any of our group. (And it wasn't.)

Leigh Creek was given the benefit of our presenence and Allan returned the jerry borrowed from the service station. (I hadn't thought of borrowing mine and it cost me \$60 for a new one – empty at that!) Daylight was running out, so we went into the Flinders Ranges from Parachilna and eventually pitched our last camping site for the trip, with the accompanying fire, about 1/2 hour before nightfall.

I would like to take this opportunity to say what a delightful trip we had with no mishaps (apart from Nick's tyre) with many happy moments and scenery. Thanks Hubert for an excellent job.

Jack & Francie Moss – Rolling Stone

Sunday 16th July – Day 9 the final day

Woke up at 6-00 am feeling a bit sad, as this would be the last day of the longest trip we have ever done. No view of "the glistening CC" this morning but no time to ponder as we stoked up the fire, enjoyed our final sunrise, had breakfast, packed up & left at 8-30 am. These early starts were a new challenge to most of us, so congratulations all round, especially the Lizards who had two young children to feed etc. Rhino, who showed us how to pack light, had a deserved advantage here. Off to Blinman deeper in Parachilna Gorge for an ice-cream & souvenirs, before turning south to Bunyerroo Gorge via Slippery Dip. Along this road we spotted numerous kangaroos

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(Continued from page 14)

which had been conspicuous by their absence up north. Once in the Flinders National Park, the scenery alternated between native pine stands, open fields with more kangaroos, eucalypt scrub & creeks lined with large gum trees. The track included a few minor water crossings before winding up to Razorback Lookout that really helped us appreciate what the Flinders has to offer. A short while later Rolling Stone left the convoy to spend a few days relaxing at Wilpena Pound - they certainly know how to extend the honeymoon.

The rest of us continued on to Quorn where the friendly folks put on a sausage sizzle & another steam train display for us. Found an interesting souvenir & knick knack shop opposite the Railway Station that is worth a visit. After a good break we headed off with most of us stopping at Redhill for a very quick afternoon tea stop. While travelling near Virginia, a fixed UHF operator at Hallett Cove joined in our conversation & tried to help us with my UHF problems. Upon reaching the South Road extension some of us decided to go home by slightly different routes so we said our good byes.

Many thanx to Tourists, Tonka, Lizard, Rhino & Rolling Stone for providing good cheer, co-operation & great company on my first trip as leader. Everyone pitched in with collecting wood, carrying creek water & erecting & dismantling the club marquees (which were great windbreaks). Thanx to Rolling Stone for being camp grandparents. Special thanx to Tonka for bringing the canoe & taking excellent video footage, Tourist who were always doing some "housework" around the campsite & Lynette for helping with my "people skills" & tolerance during the planning phase.

Special moments or treats:

"On the other hand !"

A Few Stats

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 7)

After some further time on the road, we stopped for lunch at Kay's Winery. Still a bit windy, but the weather was on the improve. After lunch and some further time on the road, Mark informed us that we were heading for a muddy track that Rhino had requested. I think this was somewhere near Blewitt Springs. On the approach road there was a small muddy patch and a chicken run. I took the chicken run – at least I got something right! I personally witnessed Michael, Merv and another vehicle get through with some pretty aggressive driving. Now on to the real quagmire. This time quite a few vehicles of all model types got stuck and, you guessed it, myself included. Lots of assistance given. Once again, some vehicle damage. A broken tail lamp lens on a Patrol and I think a broken flare on Merv's Prado at some stage. At least the sun was out by then! Just as the last vehicles were being extracted from the mud, Mark got on to the radio and reminded us we only had half an hour before the wineries were due to close. Well, I had witnessed some pretty impressive driving, none less than Ange, who had driven very calmly but effectively through the mud. Before hitting the wineries, we were given the opportunity to drive our vehicles through a car wash!

The wineries we visited for a bit of tasting were Wirra Wirra / Fern Hill Estate and finally, Horndale, where we finished up at 5.30pm. But it was at Fern Hill Estate, as I was enjoying a glass of sticky, that my world changed – Mark asked if I had an hour to spare during the following week. I thought he was possibly going to suggest we catch up to talk about some of my driving technique, but no, I was asked to step up to bat and write a report!

In the car park, when I explained to my son that I was writing the trip report, he said "Dad, what did we do wrong?" "Nothing Son, I volunteered!"

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who gave me, others and possibly themselves that day, lots of assistance to remove quite a few vehicles from the mud. Thank you Mark for organising another great day out and, my apologies to anyone or incidents or locations I may have missed – my only excuse was – I was not taking any notes!

Regards, Kerrigan
(Psyduck).



**NEXT
MEETING
Monday
October 9th
@ 7.30pm**

(Continued from page 15)

Special moments or treats:

First night camping on the Strz in Mt Curtis Creek (thanx John Ovenden for the tip)

Lunches at Yaningurie Water Hole - an oasis behind the sandhills (thanx Kimberly)

Campfires for 9 days

Tranquil sunrises & sunsets with Lynette

Water crossings at Innamincka & near the Dig Tree

Catching BIG yabbies with Kimberly

Mist rising on the CC at dawn

Canoeing just before sunset

Walk to the Aboriginal Rock Carvings

Meeting Pene the Pom

Having a beer at 9-30am in the Innamincka Pub

Greg the beer drinking pig

Shelving & a slide out ice box in the car (thanx Peter Jones)

Spectacular views & wildlife including "canoodling corellas in their cavern above the cooling campfire coals on the Cullyamurra Water Hole near the Choke by the Carvings on the Cooper Creek"

"On the other hand !"

There was, however, one minor downside to this trip but I guess it had to happen eventually. By the end of the week some of the ladies were quite envious of Tonka's porta potty & it is now on our shopping list. To quote Mrs Tonka, "when the women are happy, everything flows" !! I guess the curlers & sparkling burgundy will have to stay home to make room.

A Few Stats

We travelled about 2,600kms in 9 days.

Most expensive diesel was \$1.169 per litre at Innamincka (other items there seemed fairly priced).

The Desert Parks Pass which includes camp fees, maps & brochures was \$66-00 for 12 mths but I believe this has now gone up to about \$80-00.

Camped for free on the way up & back.

All in all an excellent trip & I look forward to the next big adventure off the black top (Cape York, Boggy Hole or Broome?).

SHERPA (Lynette, Kimberly & Hubert Orbons)

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WELCOME TO

Tim's Tech Corner

I had a customer come into the workshop the other week complaining of his dual battery system not performing correctly. Upon initial glance I noticed both batteries were identical SLI (starting, lighting, ignition) batteries, of a recognisable brand, but more or less incorrectly chosen.

From past discussions it always returns to what the manufacturer recommends. **Always use Deep Cycle Batteries** where possible.

In the situation of completely discharging the auxillary battery the SLI battery will always fail prematurely.

To make matters worse, the auxillary battery charge circuit wiring was completely (and I might add – innocently) incorrect!

All of the auxillary take offs were on the main starting battery and the solenoid that joined the Aux battery (of which had no aux take offs) was ignition fed.

Which in English means, if they left their fridge on overnight, discharging their main SLI battery, in the morning there is not enough power in the battery to energise the solenoid to join the aux battery to start the vehicle – a bit Irish!

Luckily they can use jumper leads to self jump start themselves but it kinda defeats the purpose.

To add fuel to the fire, another flaw with energising a dual battery solenoid with an ignition feed is that you will always be starting your vehicle off of two batteries and might never know if one is faulty...until it's too late.

A dual battery system is ideally designed to give one the convenience of DC Auxillary power and to avoid discharging the main battery and thus disabling the vehicle.

Happy Camping.

Tim



TRADING MART

Sell, Buy or Exchange

Sell - Two almost new split rims (silver) to suit 1998 onwards 80 Series Toyota. \$50-00 ono for the pair. Two spade holders that bolt onto spare wheel carrier of narrow wheel Pajero or Patrol. One will also carry axe or hammer. \$10-00 each. Contact Hubert Orbons at meeting or ph at wk 82013260 ah 82788142.

Sell - 2F 4.2 litre Petrol. Block – bored & honed faced. Head – new guides, valves faced, gas seats, rockers faced. Brand new ACL pistons, rings, bearings. Conrods resized. Crank shaft ground. Full gasket kit \$1800 ono. Contact Richard Curtis 8322 6493

Sell - Five Cooper Discoverer tyres 225/75R16 on white 16 inch rims, travelled 12,000 km additional spare rim and tyre and 2 new spare tubes. \$750.00. Contact John Ovenden 8370 3008 or 0428 300 033

Sell - 1985 Toyota Four Runner 2.0 Petrol. 280,000kms Exc cond. Extras include ARB Bull bar, tow bar, lift kit, 6 x Bridgestone Desert Dueler tyres on Sunraysia rims, box of spare parts, rego to 4/2001. \$7,499 ono. Contact Neil & Alison McNaughton 8277 1767 AH

Sell - Ford Maverick 90, 5 speed SWB. Exc. Cond. Extractors, bull bar, running boards, wide wheel pack. All options – elec. Windows, sunroof, etc. 10 stack CD Sony sound system, black duco, gold rims. \$15,200 ono. Contact Jace on 0402 303 482

Sell - Generator Dunlite D650 Model. As new. Had little use. Still in original carton. \$550 ono.
Steps to fit on rear of slide-on or pick-up camper. \$50.
Contact Dean Barton 8296 8771 or see Bill Markey at October Meeting.

Please Note:

All items advertised will only be published for a maximum of 3 months.

Your Committee

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