

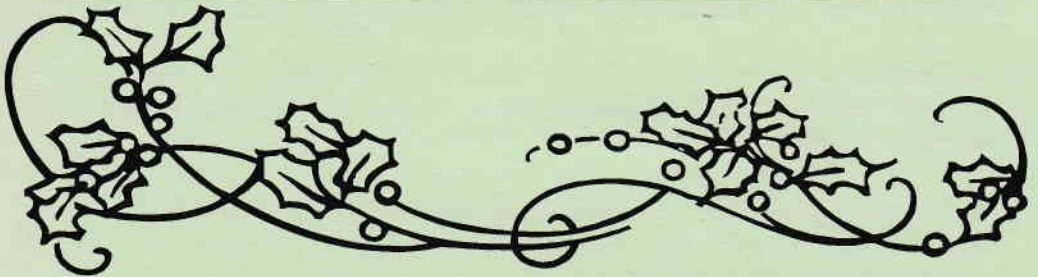


Rangers' Review

Volume 7 No. 8

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

December 2001



A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

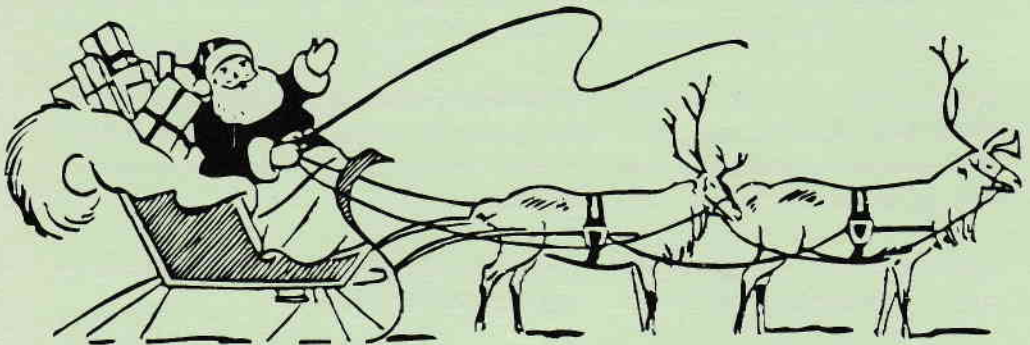


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Presidents Report.....	2
News In Brief	4
SAAFWDC Courses	18
Morgan Trip Report	3
Upcoming Trips.....	8-9
Trading Mart	19

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Usually when someone tells you to get knotted, you take offence - but not when its our website ace Colin Forster speaking at our November meeting about one of his passions, climbing. At Mount Lofty Rangers, its climb every mountain, ford every stream! Our thanks to Colin for his interesting presentation and all those small samples of rope - I've been out looking for an eighteen inch mountain all month.

Congratulations also to the winners of prizes in the 4WD Show club raffle - we raised \$332.00 which will be donated to charity in time for Christmas - thanks once again to Tim and Layne.

For all our newer members, look in this magazine for details of the special 'introductory' mystery day trip we are running on Sunday, 13 January 2002. In the past this has been very popular and a great way to find out what we are all about - I expect we'll have a number of old hands along to join in the fun.

As we come to the end of another busy year, I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year for 2002.

Thank you everyone in the club who has worked make 2001 a great year for the Mount Lofty Rangers and who continue to do so to make the Clayton Raft Race 2002 an event to remember - see you there. Special thanks to the Committee - keep up the excellent work it is appreciated.

Don't forget that we will not hold a general meeting in January 2002 due to it being the holiday season and many of our members will be away.

That's all from me for this year - please drive safely as usual.

Regards
Michael Brett, The Tourists

MORGAN

Big M, little organ, is the term of affection used by one of our members for this location on the Murray where we found ourselves on the weekend of the 23rd to 25th November 2001.

First to arrive was Tonka on late Friday afternoon, followed in the far distance by The Tourists, with Sherpa bringing up the evening shift. After a couple of very filling \$6.00 schnitzels at the Terminus Hotel it was back to the caravan park to set up camp in the dark - no problem. Unfortunately we missed the fire season by 8 days, so no fires but there was still plenty of atmosphere up in the sky.

After a cooked breakfast, and a new fishing rod and reel to replace the one that broke hauling in 'the one that got away', The Tourists facilitated Sherpa to find somewhere good to go. Sherpa was prepared as usual and we headed out to find evidence of local Aboriginal activity, that is canoe and shield trees along the river. A bonus was that our intrepid group of explorers discovered 'Cordola', a quiet campsite on the banks of a sidestream charging \$5 per vehicle per night and reminiscent of Coopers Creek - definitely the place to head for next time.

Heading back to camp we picked up Nike on the UHF just after lunch and then there were four vehicles.

Nike's story...

After Troy's game of Basketball on Saturday morning we made it to Morgan caravan park at 2pm, after quickly setting up our tent and some lunch with Sherpa, Tonka & The Tourist's it wasn't long before we made our way out into the hills behind the caravan park for some 4 wheel driving. As we hadn't been to Morgan before we were amazed at the amount of tracks that led all over the place, this area is obviously very popular with 4WD's and motorbikes. We all followed Michael and found some hills to climb, a bit of mud to play in and a couple of tough steep banks to conquer in the quarry. Then back to camp for a spot of fishing (with the typical result = zero), the younger ones took advantage of the warmer weather and

(Continued on page 14)

News In Brief

Prize winners for the 2001 4WD Show raffle were:

- 1st - J. Couzner, Paralowie - EXIDE Battery \$150
- 2nd - M. Moss, Happy Valley - Hella Spotlights \$150
- 3rd - T. Neller, Crafers - Club Membership 12 months
- 4th - S. Gray, Surrey Downs - Pair of Walker Exhausts Polo Shirts
- 5th - N. Drazil, Aberfoyle Park - Monroe Shocker Absorbers Polo Shirt

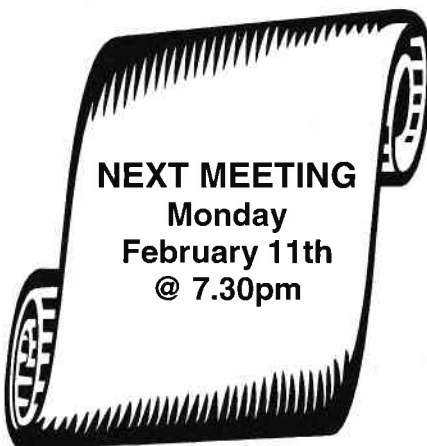
Many thanks to our prize donors.

Ted Bal, DTU Training Coordinator has written to thank Mt Lofty Rangers for our help at the 4WD show in October. He extended special thanks to Max Almond, Paul West, Ian Mangelsdorf and Shaun Lawson.

There will be magazines from other 4WD clubs available for your reading at the meetings.

*Please could you let me
have any photo's that
you wish inserted in the
magazine, my supply is
getting very sparse*

Peter J.



NEXT MEETING
Monday
February 11th
@ 7.30pm

Also letter regarding an official attempt at "The Largest gathering of 4WD vehicles at one place in the world" - venue Pittsworth, SE Qld. on the Aust. Day W/ End - if you're interested entries close 5.1.2002 - Contact (07) 32096620.

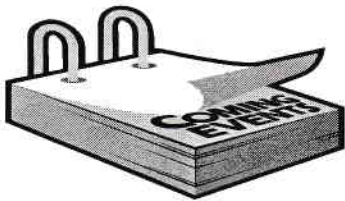
Interested in Mild & Wild Motor Mix - motor extravaganza at Gawler on w/end
of 12-13.1.2002 - part proceeds to Make-a-Wish Foundation and Camp Quality?
Spectators Fees: Adults \$8 p/day Kids 10-15yrs \$2 p/day
Further details ph 0402 342 064.

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SOCIAL SCENE

Indoor Rock Climbing 24th February 2002 (may change)



After Colin's great talk at last months meeting, I have decided to bring the indoor rock climbing forward. Because this is a busy time of the year I'll make it for late February so if anyone is interested in taking part in a group section of indoor rock climbing then put your name down on the notice board. The cost is about \$13 per person in a group booking, that gives you coaching and hire of a harness and ropes. Acme are moving from the West Tce site to a new site at Thebarton that is apparently going to be twice the size.

Skirmish — Late March 2002

The preferred place at this stage is down by Deep Creek conservation park. It has been suggested that we move it to later in the year due to the heat, I will keep you informed of a more exact date.



Russell's Pizza Bar — March 2002

We will be visiting everyone's favorite pizza bar in March, if there is anyone in the club that has been there lately and can give me phone numbers and perhaps a menu for every one to see, that would be great.

Go-Kart Racing (Again)

April 2002

Due to the interest that was had from the last event of Go-Kart racing and the fact that some people that wanted to go couldn't on that particular day, I have decided to hold another event earlier in the new year.

**Contact
Christian or Karen
Whamond**

(Hm) 08 8322 1766

(Mb) 0408 322 176

(Fax) 08 8322 8895

whamond@chariot.net.au

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

2002 Outback Challenge May

Looks like due to 4x4 Australia magazine withdrawing their sponsorship this year the Outback challenge may be held at a different location at a different time. I have been speaking to the director of the Outback Challenge and if they get the go ahead for the challenge then they possibly may need volunteers to help with course preparation, scrutinizing of the vehicles or even cooking the BBQ. I will keep you all informed as I get more information.

Cleland National Park May-June

We are planning a day at Cleland conservation park for a BBQ and a leisurely walk around the park, feeding the various animals that are roaming the park. More information will become available in the future.

To all Members

We are always looking for new and exciting events that people can participate in as a social activity in the club. If anyone has any suggestions or has recently done a activity that they found exciting and would like to share this experience with other club members, please talk to Christian or Karen and we will make a note in the club Rangers review and possibly organise a club trip.

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Calendar of Events

December 2001 – January 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 DEC.	10 Meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 X'mas	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 JAN.	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 New Members	14	15	16	17	18	19



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, Craighurn Road, Blackwood.
(off Trevor Terrace) All welcome.

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



Upcoming Trips

JANUARY 2002

NEW MEMBERS DAY - Sunday 13th

Something for the newer members - a mystery day trip down to the Murray mouth at Goolwa taking in some interesting country lanes along the way.

Meet at the former Normans Winery, top of Chandlers Hill Road just on Grants Gully Road at 10.00 am. BYO 4WD, something for morning tea and picnic lunch to have on the beach at Goolwa. We're planning on taking a few back roads to Goolwa to arrive around 1 o'clock. Weather permitting we may do some cockling as well. After we return safely to the bitumen you will be free to make your own way back to Adelaide if you wish.

Details: Mike Brett - 8387 1163 or Layne Holberton - Mob. 0412 572 139

BEACHPORT - AUSTRALIA DAY LONG WEEKEND

- Saturday 26th - Monday 28th

Very popular annual trip to Beachport/Robe. Staying at the Southern Ocean Tourist Park, Somerville Street, Beachport (Ph: 8735 8153).

A group booking of both powered and un-powered sites has already been made by the club so just turn up and we'll fit you in.

Extensive sand driving is involved and provision will be made for those new to this type of driving.

(It is recommended that you have the capability to re-inflate tyres).

Details: Shaun Lawson 8381 7865 or Denny Couprie 8383 6999

FEBRUARY 2002

CLAYTON RAFT RACE - 15th-17th February

Please see over...

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

CLAYTON RAFT RACE

15TH - 17TH FEBRUARY 2002

Don't miss out - have we got an event for you!

All Mount Lofty Rangers are encouraged to come down to Clayton in February to join in the fun and activities of this very popular inter-club event.

This event has been held for many years now and 2002 will be the second year that the event has been hosted by the Mount Lofty Rangers after which we will pass on organisation to another 4WD club. The Clayton site is situated on the shores of the inland waterway with fresh water to a depth of approximately half to one and a half metres. (Be aware that the area is not fenced and parental supervision of children is therefore essential.)

Much in the same way as the Formula 1 race events, we start off slowly on the Friday setting up camp, Saturday sees support events and wild entertainment on Saturday night and culminating in the BIG (Raft) RACE on Sunday. Of course you are welcome to turn up anytime...

KERRIGAN COLE
GENERAL MANAGER

JOHN MUNN
TOWING MANAGER

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Details you need to know:

What to bring:	Somewhere to sleep (if staying overnight) Chair Hat/Sunscreen (it can be hot) SunShade (club has four only)
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How you can help on the weekend:	Be a Red Facer Be a marshal Be an adjudicator Sell some raffle tickets
-----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Campers:	Cost \$5.00/night (adults) & \$3.00/night (children 4-15 yrs)
Day Visitors:	Cost \$2.00/day
Catering:	Sunday Breakfast \$2.00 - Egg & Bacon muffin. Sunday Lunch - BBQ/Sausage Sizzle.

Highlights:	Red Faces (Saturday Night) - prize for best act/bonus prize for every act. Hi-tech Raft Race (Sunday) Lo-tech Raft Race (Sunday) Mega Prize Raffle
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For further details contact: Mark Moss Ph.8383 6324

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MT LOFTY RANGERS

ITEMS FOR SALE

Lets Promote Our Club!!!

Cloth Badges	\$6.00
Car Stickers	\$2.50
Name Badges	
Initial 2 on joining	FREE
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)	\$40.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	
Rugby Tops	\$52.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$29.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	
Caps <i>(including logo embroidered on)</i>	\$15.00

If you require clothing please speak to Charlie Raphael 8358 2552.

ITEMS FOR LOAN

Books	Recovery Kit
Club Banner	Tirfor Winch
Club Flag	Puncture Repair Kit *
GPS Promotional Videos	First Aid Kit *
Maps	4 x Lightweight Shelters with sides.

** Please replace used items*

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

Happy Birthday

Laura Warbout	11th December	Dave Cann	16th December
Mark Moss	18th December	Sheryl Penno	27th December
Linda Moss	3rd January	Elli-Jaye Munn (10)	3rd January
Ken Bradey	10th January	Gabriel Cole (10)	15th January
Karen Fiddick	17th January	Doug Laird	18th January
Justin Probert	31st January	Adam Drazil	2nd February
Scott Goding (9)	3rd February	Andrew Brett	8th February
Greg Goding	11th February	Peter Jones	15th February



Greg traversing the Wonnangatta River

(Continued from page 3)

went for a swim in the pool and rode their bikes around the area, while the adults enjoyed 'happy hour'.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny and we packed up camp until the Wombats arrived mid-morning. With The Tourists in the lead, we headed out for an hour or so however we were delayed when a big Bugga got jammed following the Disco through a narrow valley - lucky I remembered to take my towbar neck out the night before! Half an hour of jacking and vigorous rock placing later and both parties were underway again. More driving around in circles, on purpose of course, and we headed over to the old railway line for some ramp over practice.

Back at camp in time for lunch, we finished packing, while the younger ones had another swim, and returned to Adelaide, refreshed and ready for work the next day.

Once again we all had a great weekend.

Layne, Julie & Troy Holberton (Nike) & The Tourists

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Alternative Power

We all enjoy camping. This is a fact. But roughing it? No cold beer? No no no this can not be ...

So how do we keep the beer cold for more than 24 hrs without ice ?

Portable power options...

12 Volts DC is the most common. LPG is also very effective but for the purpose of the exercise I'll restrict my limited knowledge to 12 Volts DC.

A simple 12 volt battery, recharged by the vehicles alternator, can power all of our 12 volt accessories, such as the fridge (cold beer !!), lights, TV, etc. Fantastic, 12 to 24 hrs of roughing it , home away from home !!

But what happens the next day, its 42 deg in the shade, the fridge has been running constantly, and the battery discharged !! What's the answer ?

We can start the vehicle's engine and recharge the batteries, this takes time, and is very inefficient in the use of fuel.

What are the alternatives...

The options are: Petrol Generator, Solar Cells, or Wind Generators.

Wind generation of electricity requires a lot of wind and efficient generators. Wind equals displeasure, and I'm not hanging around with that.

So Solar Power sound like the most enjoyable means to recharge DC batteries when power is required for extended periods.

Now, for some technical details on Solar power...

A typical camping configuration:

A 12V, 39l Engel fridge uses around 3.5A while running.
It runs at about a 30% duty cycle in mild weather

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

$3.5\text{A} \times 8 \text{ hours} = 28\text{AH/day}$

Liemac and other fridge types use similar amounts of power & publish data on their power consumption

Small compact fluoro lamp (12w).

$\text{Amps} = \text{watts} / \text{volts} = 12\text{W} / 12\text{V} = 1\text{A}$

Run for 4 hours at night = 4AH

This gives a total load on battery = 32AH for a single day

Solar Panel output is calculated throughout the year in terms of Peak Sun Hours (PSH). Adelaide, in winter, will produce 3.7 PSH on average & 7.8 PSH in summer from a solar panel facing North & inclined at 45 deg.

A 12V 80W solar panel will charge a battery at about 4.75A in full sun.

$4.75\text{A} \times 5.5 \text{ PSH (yearly average)} = 26\text{AH/day}$

For a continuous supply, AH in must exceed AH out by 10% to compensate for battery & wiring losses. This is not enough power to run this setup indefinitely but one panel will act as a battery extender, providing about 3-5 days running on a normal deep cycle battery, depending on conditions.

Products to support a Solar installation

Solar panels

Typically of toughened glass construction with aluminum frames, solar panels are strong enough to withstand the rigors of 4WD travel. Careful consideration should be given to storage of the panel/s. Sizes vary, depending on output & brand.

Suggested panel sizes are 75W or 80W panel for refrigeration, and smaller types (20W – 60W) for lighting only.

BP's mono-crystalline panels are suitable because they are quite compact for their output & come in 12V modules. They are also Australian made, have a wide variety of sizes and come with a 20 year warranty.

Other modules around 80W are Solarex (also BP), Kyocera, Photowatt & Canon-

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

Unisolar. These panels are similar in many ways. Prices vary from brand to brand. 75W – 80W panels cost around \$730 - \$850

Regulators

Physically about the size of a cigarette packet, the regulator is an electronic device wired between the panel and the battery to prevent over charging of the battery. Some regulators can also switch off the loads to prevent excessive discharge of the battery.

Regulators for this application range in price from \$60 - \$360

Batteries

Most battery manufacturers make a deep cycle battery suitable for solar use. Deep cycle batteries differ from cranking batteries in that they are designed to discharge further and at a slower rate. These 2 types of batteries are generally not interchangeable except in “emergencies”.

Deep cycle batteries should still not be discharged far enough so that they are “flat”. Their capacity is measured in AH. A 130AH battery would be suitable for the above scenario and is physically about the size of a 4WD battery.

The ideal depth of discharge is 15%. This is where a good regulator can protect a battery and even double its life!

The most elaborate regulator will measure AH in, and out of the battery to calculate the battery charge as a percentage.

Other regulators will switch the load off at a predetermined voltage ~11.5V

Deep cycle batteries come in 2 basic types – Wet cell, and Gel. Wet cells look a lot like your car battery. They are the cheaper types. Gel batteries require no maintenance because the acid is in a gel form. They can be discharged up to 55% safely & will last 2-3 times as long as a wet cell (They cost 2-3 times as much)

Wet cells \$100 - \$180

Gels \$220 - \$500

(Continued on page 18)

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(Continued from page 17)

Inverters

An inverter is used to turn battery voltage (12Vdc in this case) to household voltage (240Vac). They come in a variety of sizes & types depending on what kind of appliance they are required to run.

An inverter with a rating of 150VA (Watts) will run a small TV, charge your phone still some. A hair drier or power tools would require a larger device.

Inverters come in 2 main types. Modified square wave inverters produce a rough approximation of mains power & in the opinion of some, have caused enough trouble to warrant them a menace. True sine wave inverters produce better quality power than a generator or the grid normally provides. True sine wave inverters are naturally dearer than modified square wave units.

True sine wave inverters \$1.50 - \$2.50/Watt.

Modified square wave \$0.80 – \$1.50/Watt

Correct sizing of components is essential for reliable operation & performance of the solar system.

Tim's Tech Corner



Four Wheel Drive
Courses

SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit

Unit 2

9 Cardiff Court

Cavan

Contact: Greg Goding – 8387 3118 AH

Mobile: 0418 807 437

Those interested in the Basic training course, could you please add your name to the list. When there are enough interested, then I will schedule the course.

Trading Mart

Wanted - Drive shaft for PTO winch to suit FJ/HJ 60 series Land Cruiser.
Contact Rodney Curtis 8278 6280.

Sell - 5 white spoke ROH rims 16 by 7 only 1 year old suit either Patrol or Landcruiser \$300 the lot. Plus set of tyres 235/85/16 BFG All Terrain 10 To 15% tread left free to purchaser of rims.
Contact George Vlahos 0419040407 or 82789229

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