

# Rangers' Review

Volume 8 No. 9

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

February 2003



Happy Hour—Alpine style

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



G-day,

Welcome back to the Rangers for 2003. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year and are all revved up to do some more four wheel driving.

I have heard already there are some good new trips in the pipe-line and I will be meeting shortly with the committee to do some forward planning for the next few months.

Who wants to be on the committee? Please put some thought into it as the A.G.M is coming up in May and nominations are now open for all positions and will close on the April meeting.

Well I hope you all had as much fun over the Christmas break as I did. The Victorian High country is a magic place to go, we had a great group and everyone had a great time. We were one of the lucky ones to leave the area before getting caught up with the bush fires.

January we had the Beachport/Robe trip which like always was a popular trip with 25 vehicles attending. There were a few new members on the trip which was good to see and for myself it was good to catch up with them as I find it hard at meetings to catch up with everyone. It was a great trip and Thanks to Denny for organising it.

The inter club raft race at Clayton is only one week away on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. The duties for the event have been split up this year and I believe our club will be manning the BBQ. Mark will inform us all tonight of what is happening and will be looking for volunteers. For the members that haven't been before, it's a great family and club bonding weekend, and if you can't make it for the whole weekend try and get down there for the main raft races on Sunday.

Anyway the beginning of the year is always a good one as there is a lot of long weekends which means free time to go away so put your thinking caps on and lets get some new trip on the board.

One more thing we have a new member for the club, CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTIAN, KAREN AND KYLE WHAMOND FOR THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF THEIR SON AND BROTHER JAMIE TYLER, well done guys, hope to see you all on deck shortly.

Anyway that's enough from me - see ya all tonight.

Happy trails

Shaun Lawson



## Beachport—Robe - Sat 25th Jan 2003

With the majority of members arriving on Friday the 24th, we had a good turn out of about 20 vehicles for the trip from Beachport to Robe.....the long way.

We left the Southern Ocean Caravan Park at approximately 10.00 a.m. As there were so many participants we were split into a couple of groups. Our leader was Mark (Mossiah) Moss.

It was quite an experience for newcomers especially when we came to the bowl. Several attempts were made by some but in the end we all succeeded. After a few stops and starts we ended up at Nora Creina for a quick tunch. A beautiful piece of coastline and the kids certainly enjoyed the swim considering the day was very, very hot.

After lunch we continued to follow Mark, Linda and the girls, religiously, but I am sure there must have been a shorter way to Robe.

When we were about 41/2 kms away from Robe, Mark started to have a problem with his fuel but continued on hoping he would make it to our destination. He then lead us off the beach over timber slats that had been laid for traction. Mark Curtis made it, Mark Moss made it, and then we made it, but no more after that. By the time three vehicles had passed over, the slats had moved, and it was considered too risky for



## JOHN MUNN

TOWING MANAGER

## MORPHETT VALE CRASH REPAIRS

193 MAIN SOUTH ROAD MORPHETT VALE 5162 TELEPHONE 8382 3477 FACSIMILE 8384 7948 EMAIL TRYCT@senet.com.au others to try. The three of us then finished our trip to Robe, without any more incidents, whilst the remainder of the group, I believe, had numerous difficulties getting back.

As it was a very hot day, those of us with airconditioning, found it an exciting way to keep cool.

It was my first outing with the Club and I had a great time but must admit there were quite a few occasions I don't remember as I had my eyes closed until I was on solid, firm and low lying ground.

I hope i will get used to it??????

Karen Bryant

## **News In Brief**

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

## TRIP LEADERS WANTED

We need some more day trip & weekend trips for 2003. Anyone interested in leading a trip or requiring assistance with leading a trip please contact Layne Holberton (0412572139)

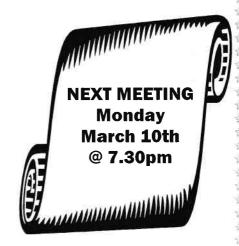
Please note: changes to my email addresses. Please use either:

mlr4wd@yahoo.com.au

nickt 4wd@yahoo.com.au

Please could you let me have any photo's that you wish inserted in the magazine, my supply is almost non-existent

Nick.



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Siz.

## Clayton Raft Races Weekend Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2003

Prepare to peddle or paddle on this weekend or perhaps just cheer the others on. This is a non-driving, good fun weekend where a number of 4WD clubs compete against each other in the water. Arrive Friday afternoon after 2.00pm at the Clayton Bay Caravan Park and stay till Sunday afternoon or just visit for the day.

## Highlights

Hi tech raft race Low tech Raft race Fun & Games Saturday afternoon Red Faces on Saturday night Magician Mega Prize Raffle Camping

### Costs

- Adults \$5-00 per night
- Children \$3-00 per night (4-15 yrs)
- Day visitors \$2-00
- Sunday Breakfast (egg & bacon muffins) \$2-00
- Sunday sausage sizzle lunch \$1-00

For further details contact Mark or Linda Moss 8383 6324

## **CENTRAL TOWING**

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## **HIGH COUNTRY TRIP NOVEMBER 2002**

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

The trip started off with three vehicles, half the number originally planned. Getting out of work commitments was too difficult for some.

(Vehicles: Greg: 80 series, Denny: GU Patrol, Jeff: Prado) Everyone made tracks about 5.30am, we were all in radio contact early and decided we would meet up around Keith somewhere.

The weather started off on a great foot, clear skies and sunshine. We didn't expect the variety of weather to come over the next few days.

The plan, well the decision was made to get to Mansfield at days end, and then consider where we were to go from there, no point in planning too far ahead! We stayed at the Mansfield caravan park which was full booked by the Ulysses Motorcycle club; and they reckon we spend lots of money on 4WD; the money in motor bikes at the park would have been mind boggling.

Dinner was had at Mingo's, in the main street and steak seemed to be the order of the night. We could not work out why the town put on a parade and fire works that night for us but it was appreciated by all, except for young Jayden Couprie who thought the fireworks were a bit noisy.

## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

After an early breakfast the decision was made to head off to Mt Stirling via Mt Buller. On arriving in the Mt Buller village access was available to just below the summit. A large area of snow was piled up so the mandatory snow fight was on, within five minutes everyone's hands were frozen. The wind was fairly cold so it was off to Mt Stirling, the view back to Mt Buller was spectacular with all the ski runs evident through the trees.

After stopping for a few pic's, we drove around the mountain into our first obstruction. Snow blocked the track for 100m with a fair side slope. First attempts proved it would be difficult to cross. A group of motor trail bike riders crossed and were asked to cut a track across so Denny could attempt a crossing using the track rut for lower wheel support. This worked well until about 80% of the way across. We then had to carry out our first extraction for the week. This was not going to be the last as the week panned out.

After our first bit of fun we ended up at Craig's hut with the rest of Victoria, well it seemed that way, After lunch and a few more tracks, we ended up on the Howqua River, about 2km NW of Ritchie Hut.

Tents and tarps were erected in record time as it was just about to start raining. Rain continued through the night until the lightning and thunderstorm struck. The first lightning lit up the valley and about 20 seconds later the thunder rocked the valley, and rolled on for more than two minutes without a break.

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## CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2003 SUNDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

• Contact: Tim Byrne 82717617 (w) 0412527176 (m)

Meet: Cherry Gardens Community Hall car park

Where: Scotts Creek National Park

When: 8 am till 3 pm

Why: KESAB Clean-up Australia Day

Who: Everyone: Men, Women and Kids

Bring: 4wd utes ,trailers (caged if possible), drag chains, winches (hand and power), gloves, club shirts and hats, packed lunch, drinks, cameras, sunscreen, rakes, shovels, forks, chain saws, hand saws and plenty of good old elbow grease.

- This is a state wide co-ordinated event with 15 4wd clubs participating in their local area
- Plenty of media exposure and the 4WD Association is driving this as a positive publicity event
- Please note, due to the nature of this cleanup, if the temperature is forecast to be over 36 degrees the event will be cancelled.



Hopefully the next person that takes over the Social Secretary position next year will have as much support to these events as we have had.

## Social Secretary.

I have enjoyed this position for the past couple of years but with the extra commitments I have taken on with the Driver Training Unit and SAAFWDC, I would like to pass the position of Social club secretary on to someone else. Please think about it as I will not be accepting the position after next year's AGM and if no one puts their hand up we will be without a social scene which will be a real shame.

Contact
Christian or Karen
Whamond
(Hm) 08 8322 1766
(Mb) 0408 322 176
(Fax) 08 8322 8895
whamond@bigpond.net.au

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## 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.

## Southern PHYSIOTHERAPY

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## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Most of the rained had cleared by morning, a campfire warmed up everybody and a hot breakfast was appreciated.

We headed out up along King Billy track up to Bluff Hut, as we climbed above 800m the cloud cover came in and reduced visibility with light rain at least this was settling the dust from the day before.

Bluff Hut is a large hut compared to some other with a bit of ingenious plumbing tied into the fireplace to provide hot water. Photo opportunities were excellent to get the hut shrouded in mist. The night's camp spot was Wrens flat and the vehicles need some mud removal as we crossed the river, it continued to rain lightly over night again.

## Monday 4th November

After a damp night the morning was clearing up nicely with an intermittent shower.

As we headed off to Plum Pudding Rock, excitement grew as the light rain turned to sleet, then to light snow. The trees on the side of the road were covered in powdering of light snow, another mandatory photo stop.

After a few photos we headed off to Mt Skene, the snow kept coming; by the time we were at the lookout it was more than 5cm deep.

By this time we were all gloating as many of the original group have always wanted to be on this trip when it snowed, we were thinking of them all, and enjoying the special moment thinking of how p....d off they were going to be. To rub salt into the wound text messages were sent to as many as we had phone numbers.

After many photos we headed off and ended up on the Alpine Walking track driving between snow gums covered in snow, this was the most spectacular scene.

The track down was steep with many rock climbs done one in particular on a sharp right hand bend with a 600mm drop with a tree in front where you could not get a second bite, no reversing up here.

Across the Barkley River to another part of the Alpine-walking track, the climb down into the Black River was steep and badly rutted with 600mm ruts. Across the river and up a steep black slippery track. Greg and Denny got up after a couple of goes, then at my second attempt a short distance from the top, a sharp bang from the rear of the Prado spelt disaster.

After being snatched up the next section, and some dismantling the rear handbrake shoe had come loose but the rear drive was terminal, with a suspected diff failure. We were deep in a valley and getting out was going to take time, as the next 8kms were very steep and slippery.

Towing and snatching into the night, at one point I nearly got pulled into a tree stopping

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about 150mm before the tree smack in the middle, the Smart Bar just missed out on its first test.

We started at about 4.00pm and finished at 10.30pm when we found two Discoveries broken down on the track, one in the scrub and the other tied off to a tree in the track, we weren't going any further tonight.

Just prior to this point Denny's vehicle was pulled sideways off the track due to the distance between the vehicles we were on a bend. This meant some extra work to get him back up on to the track from a very precarious position.

Everyone was pretty tired, and with Denny's electric winch now out of action, more time was going to be needed to get the rest of the way out, and this would have to be done in daylight. The night was cold and it felt like it was about to snow again.

Greg had got onto the Woods Point police who did a search on the two Disco's as no note was left in the vehicle and we were unsure if they had walked out for help.

It wasn't until the Steve from the Woods Point police came in at 1.30am, that they discovered the other group was camped about 500m up the track, they had been there since Saturday with two other vehicles and were unable to get the Disco's out.

To be continued... (you'll just have to wait)

Jeff Morgan



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## Calendar of Events February 2003 – March 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 9	10 Meeting	11	12	13	14	15 Clayton
16 Clayton	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	March 1
2 Cleanup Australia	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Meeting	11	12	13	14	15



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



### FEBRUARY 2003

CLAYTON - RAFT RACE WEEKEND — FEBRUARY 15TH-16TH

Details: page 5

Contact: Mark Moss (8383 6324)

### MARCH 2003

CLEANUP AUSTRALIA — MARCH 2ND

Details: page 7

Contact: Tim Byrne (w: 82717617 m:0412 527 176)

### ADVANCE NOTICE

CHOWILLA — EASTER WEEKEND

Bush camping at a single location. Fishing, limited 4x4 driving, relaxing & water skiing.

Contact: Tim Byrne (0412 527 176)

SIMPSON DESERT — JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Details to be advised in March '03 — Contact Layne Holberton (0412 572 139)

GULF COUNTRY — MID YEAR

Refer to trip board for details — Contact Mark Curtis

Sab APVIL WARLOW SOUND 8 & 9 MARCH PEAKLE

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

## HIGH COUNTRY TRIP Day 1 - Friday 27/12/02

The day was finally here !! Had the usual big trip excitement stopping us from getting much sleep the night before - this trip promised so much if it was going to be anything like the stories we had heard. Up early to meet Zulu by the Belair Golf Course at 4Ab\*\*\*dyM!

Arrived at a crisp Bordertown around 7-00am to rendezvous with Rick, Judy, Jess & David (later named X-Ray), who had driven down from Loxton the day before. Then onto Ararat for fuel, rendezvous with Tonka (travelled from Adelaide the day before) and morning tea. After travelling a while Zulu suggested a quiz that helped to pass the time quickly and before we knew it we were at Melton for a quick comfort stop. It didn't seem long before we were on the Westgate Bridge, then into the tunnel and heading to the eastern side of Melbourne suburbs for a 2-30 lunch.

Just after lunch we came up to a traffic jam causing us to lose about an hour as the traffic crawled, but realized we were much luckier than the unfortunate person who died in the car crash. This was a chilling reminder of how dangerous travelling can be, even on modern roads and in modern cars.

Once up to highway speed it was time for more quiz questions and it didn't seem long before we arrived at Sale where we topped up fuel, afternoon tea, bait and a fishing license. We were delayed a bit here as the bait was scarce and took a bit of finding.

On the road again with Dargo our next target stop. We had been able to see the mountains in the distance for a while now, so we assumed it wasn't far to go. Unfortunately, once you turn off the main hwy your speed reduces considerably and we found ourselves "champing at the bit" on the scenic twisting roads. We passed through a few small country towns full of early Victorian charm with names like Stratford on the Avon, which came complete with lolly shop and antiques. Once in Dargo, Zulu made contact with a couple of the locals who advised him about the road conditions. On the bitumen for about 5 minutes then turn off down the Shortcut Track

This is where the excitement (or fear begins). Although the road surface is well graded, it is very narrow in parts with some very steep drops for the careless or those unlucky to be hit by oncoming traffic on corners. There are not many places for cars to pass each other so practice your reversing before leaving home! Long caravans could find this road awkward. Having said that, the valley and river views make it all worthwhile and we were getting very excited about

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camping up in this beautiful environment for a week. It was all picture postcard scenery with lush green areas, a few pebbly creek crossings, mountains, tall timber, occasional farmhouse or old wooden stockyards and this is just on the way in! The last few kms to the campsite are the best part of this section as you spend a bit of time travelling along side the Wongungarra River. Zulu took us straight to the campsite in the Pioneer Racecourse area about 7-30pm — well done. There was still enough light to set up camp around a fire hearth with built in framework for hanging billies etc. A path led down to the running water and there was even a few pieces of firewood — what more could we want!! It was a long but rewarding day with everyone arriving safely and looking forward to the next week.

SHERPA (Hubert & Lynette Orbons)

## **Day 2 - Saturday 28/12/02**

A late arrival to camp on the Friday, saw the first part of the day taken up with finishing off the setting up of camp.

Though today was to be a recovery day after our long journey from Adelaide it was decided that an outing along the alternative choice of ways in to the area may be beneficial. We then hoped to make a decision on which was the best way for the Tourists to come in with their trailer tent. This way back to Dargo going through a large and well populated camping spot called Talbotville. We thought this way had some lovely river sights with wider tracks and a long stretch of bitumen into Dargo. Yes, this was the way to advise the Tourists. We would leave a note at the post office as arranged, for them to collect on arrival.

On entering Dargo, we had picnic lunch at the CFS picnic area. Then after a browse at the 2 or 3 shelves of the store, went to the Hotel for a refreshing brew. We returned to camp along the way we had just journeyed, but took a detour down the steep Collingwood track.

Back at camp and carrying chairs we ventured down to the river for happy hour. A warm balmy night calls for a cool down. So with a dip and a splash for some and another bottle of bubbly for others. A fun time was enjoyed in the cooling waters. The day completed with a Chicken dish for 6. Jones's turn to cook and wash up. 1<sup>st</sup> day down.

ZULU (Pete and Jenny)

## MT LOFTY RANGERS



## ITEMS FOR SALE

## Lets Promote Our Club!!!

Asyronatod in South Australia	Cloth Badges	\$6.00
Wated in South A.	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 a committee member for the above purchases.

Windcheaters (fleecy lined)	\$40.00	
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)		
Rugby Tops	\$52.00	
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)		
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$29.00	
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)		
Caps (including logo embroidered on)	\$15.00	
If you require clothing please speak to a committee member.		

## ITEMS FOR LOAN

DOORS	ICCCOVCI y ICIL
Club Banner	Tirfor Winch
Club Flag	Puncture Repair Kit *
GPS Promotional Videos	First Aid Kit *
1.6	

Maps 4 x Lightweight Shelters with

sides.

Recovery Kit

\* Please replace used items

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

Rooks

## Happy Birthday

Adam Drazil (7)	2nd February	Scott Goding (9)	2nd February
Kaitlyn Bradey (12)	3rd February	Andrew Brett	8th February
Greg Goding	11th February	Peter Jones	15th February
Nick Travers	16th February	Shannon Orbons (21)	26th February
Richard Curtis	27th February	Phill Dohne	29th February
Jackson Lawson (3)	29th February	Jan Warbout (12)	3rd March
Barb Almond	8th March	Troy Holberton (11)	9th March

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## FIRE REGULATIONS

## Fire Restrictions

During The Fire Danger Season fire restrictions apply throughout South Australia including Adelaide Metropolitan (Inner Adelaide). During this period you must apply for a permit to use fire outdoors at any time.

There are some exceptions, notably barbecues, campfires, incinerators and some industrial processes such as gas and electric welding.

If you have any doubt about lighting any fire during the Fire Danger Season use the CFS Fire Bans Hotline 1300 362 361 to seek advice.

The penalties for illegally lighting a fire are severe. You face the possibility of incurring a fine of up to \$8,000 or imprisonment for up to two (2) years.

### **Total Fire Bans & Hotline**

On days when extreme weather conditions (high wind and high temperature) could cause fires to become uncontrollable, Total Fire Bans may be declared in some fire ban districts or even across all South Australia. These bans will apply for 24 hours from midnight to midnight the following day. They are broadcast on radio and television from 6.00pm. If in doubt check on the CFS Fire Bans Hotline.

Be aware that if extreme weather conditions develop suddenly, a Total Fire Ban could be announced as late as 7.00 am on the morning of the ban. Total Fire Bans may also be removed at 7.00 am, where weather conditions have moderated considerably. Both situations would be broadcast on radio and the CFS Fire Bans Hotline.

## **Barbecues & Campfires**

Throughout the Fire Danger Season if a Total Fire Ban has <u>not</u> been declared, you may use any barbecue or campfire for cooking or warmth (personal comfort) but there are conditions that you must follow.

The fire must be contained in a barbecue or cooker, a properly constructed fire place or a 30 centimetre deep trench, not more than 1 square metre in area. As well, you must have cleared away all flammable material for a 4 metre space around and above it.

While it is alight you must also stay with the fire and have with you sufficient water or other appropriate extinguishing agent to be able to put the fire out.

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## On a Total Fire Ban Day:

The only fires you can use outside on a Total Fire Ban Day for cooking, are gas stoves or kettles, gas barbecues and electric barbecues or stoves. Even these can only be used within 15 metres of a dwelling or on coastal foreshore in a 4 metre cleared area with a responsible person in attendance at all times and water or other extinguishing agent on hand. All campfires are banned.

Some councils also allow gas or electric barbecues to be used in caravan parks or cleared picnic areas on Total Fire Ban Days. Look for the signs or notice boards, or contact the council office for advice.

### National Park Reserves

The National Parks and Wildlife Service have strict regulations on the use of barbecues and all types of fires in their reserves. During the Fire Danger Season, fires are only allowed in those reserves which have signs at entrances stating that fires are permitted.

These fires may only be lit in designated areas especially set aside for this purpose.

No fires are permitted in National Parks or Forest Reserves when a Total Fire Ban has been imposed.

BLACKWOOD TREE SERVICE

> Peter Warbout (08) 8278 2538 0419 867 724

Full Insurance Cover

A number of National Parks and Wildlife reserves have total bans on the use of wood fires. For your safety and to confirm what types of fires are permitted, contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service Offices under the heading 'Environment and Natural Resources', in the telephone directory.

For the more commonly used reserves.

Gas fire are permitted only on prepared fire pads in designated areas.

(For further details contact the park offices between 9am and 4.30pm).

These details are as posted on the CFS' website.

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Sights found along the Billy Goat Track



New Years Eve — Alpine Style

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## Ken Bradey

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www.tcis.com.au National Insurance Scheme

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## **ELECTRO STATIC DISCHARGE**

This is what that horrible zap is called when you reach to close the car door after you have just drag your bum across the car seat

I have had many customers in the past, asking for me to fix anything between, the short-circuit in their car, to performing an exorcism on it

Two easy ways to fix this...

Change the clothes you wear:

by wearing non-synthetic clothes you will remove the necessary tools for generating an electrostatic charge

Change the way you exit the car:

by clutching the top of the door, before you begin to exit the car. this will immediately dissipate the static charges before, during and after the manufacture of it.

Try it, it works !!!!



SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit Unit 2 9 Cardiff Court Cavan

Contact: Ian Mangelsdorf 8384 5691

Mobile: 0414 677 858

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

- Full set 80 series 'Cruiser Std Springs & Shockers (2 wks old) \$125
  75 series 'Cruiser Fuel gauge (new) \$30
  2 CB radios (Gardner / Pearce Simpson Super Tomcat) \$25 each
  Electric Bug spring base aerial \$20
  Companion Gas compatible 1 medium Light \$10 2 new Heaters
  \$15 each
  Contact Kim Rawsthorn 8270 3751.
- Pajero (Escape) Jan 2000 5sp V6 3500, GLS Alloy rims w/- BFG All-Terrain 265/75x16, Tinted windows, Nudge bar, Towbar, Power windows, Cruise control, Side steps, 68,000km Excellent condition. (as seen on Innaminka trip) \$32,000 Contact Paul Brinkley 0414 344 389
- Wanted Need practice in sewing small canvas work Bags, Wheel Covers, Roof Bags, etc. Very cheap rates.
  Phone Peter or Jo Reed: 8276 1212

Trading mart — Members — no charge — non-member \$20 for 3 issues.

## Sheryl Penno F.G.A.A.

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## Your Committee

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