



Rangers' Review

Volume 10 No.3

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

August 2004



Madigan Blaze Tree—Hay River Simpson Desert

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Presidents Report.....	2
News In Brief	4
SAAFWDC Courses	22
Trip Reports.....	3, 8, 9, 16, 17
Upcoming Trips	12, 13
Trading Mart.....	23

"President Report"



G-day to everyone,

Well as you can see I am not at this meeting, sorry, I had work commitments I had to meet, so I've left you in the capable hands of Tim (its good practice for him for the future).

Thanks to Tim for organising last month's guest speaker and his pet snakes, the look on all the kid's faces when he brought out the big snake was priceless.

Well the weather is terrible at the moment, but its good for few things. I had the opportunity to visit Jamie Grundy's property over Willunga hill where he has made a track and water crossing for mud and water training. A weekend has been booked for our club to visit, so check out the training page and contact Jeff Morgan and get your name down for that weekend.

I have spoken to a few people that went to the Simpson, and it sounds like it was a great trip. There is a couple of good trips coming up, so if your keen to wear out some rubber and burn some fuel, then check out the trips coming up on the trips page. Plus of course if you would like to visit somewhere, or have plans to do a trip, talk to Alby and put it up as a club trip, its always more fun in a group.

Mark Curtis is working hard on preparing a calendar for the club members to hang on the wall at home, this calendar would have all the annual trips and events listed on it so we can book ahead of time and make sure we don't double up on events. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for the calendar then please let me or Mark Curtis know and we will discuss it at the next

Committee meeting and possibly put it in the calendar.

Steve Harding still needs help with the four-wheel drive show, he has some ideas already, but we will need volunteers to man the stand, and help with the setting up.

I noticed the Trading Mart is looking a bit bare, remember that advertising goods in the Rangers review is free of charge, don't just hold onto all those unwanted four wheel drive things, advertise them and collect some cash for yourself.

Its great to see a continuous flow of new members that are coming to our meetings for the first time and joining, the majority of which are coming through word of mouth from current members.

Its always good to have new faces at the club and I look forward to meeting you all on the road and around the camp fire one day.

Until next month.

Regards,
Christian Whamond

SIMPSON - HAY RIVER - ALICE SPRINGS, JULY 2004

Saturday 3rd July

Mark Curtis & Paul West met up with Peter & Jenny Jones, Hubert & Lyn Orbons and Merv & Anne Tucker at Quorn at 10.00am.

Some bargains were brought in Quorn and with the cars refuelled it was onto Parachilna for morning tea and a look around. Next stop was Copley for lunch at the bakery and a look through the second hand shop. Then we pressed on to Marree to refuel and a quick look at the Camel Races, some wanted to go to the evening rock concert but the decision was made to keep driving to Cooper Creek where camp was set up. A great fire and dinner was had before going to bed.

(Continued on page 8)

News In Brief

Does anyone know who recently had to be winched out (rather than let down their tyres) while trying to setup camp?



Future Meeting Date

October	11 th
November	8 th
December	13 th
January	No Meeting
February	



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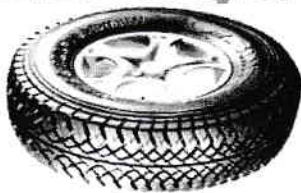
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SOCIAL SCENE

Greater Union Projection Room Tour. – Sunday 15th August 2004, 3.30pm or refer tonights meeting for updated time

Greater Union MEGAPLEX Marion

Something for the whole family to do on a Sunday Afternoon. Come visit Greater Union Megaplex Marion for a behind the scenes tour of the Worlds Largest Projection Room & Projection Museum. This will be on Sunday the 15th August 2004, commencing at 3.30pm.

The tour will take about one hour and cost \$4.00 per person. There is a maximum of 30 people per group but if there are more than 30 people interested we will have two groups. This means there will be two different commencing times, final details will be advised at the August Meeting.

Put your names on the list on the board if you would like to join us for an informative afternoon. If you wish to go to a movie on Sunday afternoon you can at a reduced cost of \$10.50 for adults and \$8.25 for children.

SOUTHERN VALES WINERY TOUR – SUNDAY 12TH September 2004

Meet at Xanadu/Normns Winery – Grants Gully Road Clanendon at 10.00am

A fun day for the whole family. We will visit some wineries and do some tasting of our local world famous wines. Bring a picnic lunch to be eaten at one of the wineries that has an area for the kids, of all ages, to play and run about. Of course there will be a track or 2 may be even 3 or more, this depends on how many tracks are still open in the area.

More details will be available tonight.

(Continued on page 7)

CAMP COOK WEEKEND 9th and 10th October 2004

This weekend will be held at Jack's Paddock, Kuipto, we will be bush camping. There is a large shelter so if it rains there will be somewhere to keep dry, there is also a long drop toilet. Dinner will be shared on Saturday evening with each family cooking either your favorite camp meal or why not try something new.

Put your name down on the list on the board and include what you would like to cook. This can be either something for Happy Hour, entrée, main meal or sweets. During the day there will be some fun to be had with the GPS and foot power, the 4x4's can have a rest.

There will be a small camping fee. There will be more information available tonight and in next month's magazine. This will be a fun weekend.

As always please come and speak with Linda, Jo, Julie or Lyn tonight if you have any suggestions or questions regarding our events for the year. Have a great night!

Social Committee

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(Continued from page 3)

Sunday 4th July

Layne, Julie & Troy Holberton left home at about 9.30am for the beginning of a long days drive to Mungerannie. Lunch was at Quorn, a quick refuelling stop at Hawker then onto Marree for dinner. By now the sun had set, so it was a dark drive up the Birdsville Track to Mungerannie where we stayed in the hotel for the night.

A truck driver befriended the rest of the clan on their way to Mungerannie and gave them some interesting facts about the area. After arriving at Mungerannie it was time for a drink in the Pub and a walk around Mungerannie checking out the hot pool, camels and the fabulous display of hats in the bar. It was then onto Cowarie Station, on the Derwent Creek, and through to Kallamurina Station and a perfect camp site on the white sand of Mia Mia Beach, on the Warburton Creek.

Monday 5th July

In the morning it was very cool with frost on the swags. A large flock of Pelicans flew over head. It was then back in to Mungerannie to meet up with the Holberton's at 10.00am. Sausage Rolls were eaten by many before heading off up the Birdsville Track. First stop was at the natural hot springs for morning tea, then on through Sturts Stony Desert, gibber plains to Mungara Channel for a scenic lunch and time to dry the frosty swags. We arrived in Birdsville mid afternoon, refuelled the cars, stocked up on those last minute items and souvenirs. Camp was setup in the caravan park near the creek; it was time for a welcome shower (artesian basin water that smelt like sulphur). It was only a short walk up to the Pub for a drink or two and a very nice dinner.

Tuesday 6th July

A quick breakfast and showers were had before packing up and a quick visit to the Working Museum (a must see if you go to Birdsville). A very interesting/unusual talk by John (the owner) explaining all the interesting things he has collected over the past 20years. Around 10.00am the girls went for a walk to the local Café and Art Gallery, the guys met us there and all had Cappuccino, Hot Chocolate or tea before heading off out into the Simpson Desert. We all drove over Big Red without a problem and kept heading west; this was the

(Continued on page 16)

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Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Assessor Training
8 Assessor Training	9 Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Assessor Training
22 Assessor Training	23	24	25	26	27	28 Camp Cook Weekend
29 Camp Cook Weekend	30	31				

Calendar of Events

September 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Assessor Training
5 Assessor Training	6	7	8	9	10	11 Mud Driving
12 Mud Driving	13 Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 14 Day Cameron corner	20	21	22	23	24	25 17 Day Ularu
26	27	28	29	30		

Upcoming Trips

AUGUST

28th & 29th August. Camp Cooking Weekend & GPS activities. Jacks Paddock in Kuipo Forrest. This is a social activity close to home and lots of fun.

SEPTEMBER

September 19 for 14 days. Broken Hill, Cameron's Corner, Innamincka, Coongie Lake, Walkers Crossing, Birdsville, Simpson Desert Crossing to Dalhousie and then. Run by Alby. Rated medium

September 25 for 17 days. Flinders. Oodnadatta, Finke, Kings Canyon, Ularu and Coober Pedy run by Anthony Tavelli. This trip is rated as easy and is camper trailer compatible.

OCTOBER

October Long Weekend 2nd, 3rd, 4th October. Whyalla 4WD Club at Mt Laura. Middleback Ranges and night time navigation challenge. Medium rated with some hard rated available. Run by the Whyalla 4X4 Club, MLR Contact is Darren Callary.

October 2 for 7 days During the School holidays. A week of discovery and exploring on one of the Great Wonders of the World!! Fish, swim, heaps of sand driving and plenty of family adventure. Run by Alby. Rated easy/medium

Upcoming Trips

Some of you may be aware that the original trip registration forms from June's club meeting were missing for the July meeting. We have made new registration forms for all of the trips and events scheduled and ask that anybody that has registered before the August meeting should re-register.

Cheers for now

Alby

Quote of the month:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away



MT LOFTY RANGERS

Lets Promote Our Club!!!

Cloth Badges	\$7.00
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 a committee member for the above purchases.

Windcheaters (fleecy lined)	\$40.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	
Rugby Tops	\$52.00
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Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$26.00
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Caps <i>(including logo embroidered on)</i>	\$13.00
NEW ITEM	
Bucket Hats <i>(including logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	\$13.00

If you require clothing please speak to a committee member.

ITEMS FOR LOAN

Books (hopefully in the future)	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 Merv Tucker for any items you wish to loan Ph 8278 1414.

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busiest day for traffic so far. We were all amazed by the vast amount of wild flowers and vegetation we saw throughout the day. A great campsite was found between the dunes and the birthday celebrations began as it was Anne's 50th Birthday. A silly hat had to be worn and a shared dinner was enjoyed by all.

Wednesday 7th July

Bacon and Eggs was on the menu for breakfast before packing up and heading off to Poeppels Corner for a photo shoot, along with many other tourists. It was then back along the salt lake and onto Poeppels Oil Well. We were now heading due north along a shot line; this was the beginning of the more isolated tracks. We collected some fire wood and kept driving in a northerly direction between the dunes for some 30 km observing the ever changing vegetation, wild flowers and sand dunes. We turned east onto a faint track, it was time to find a camp site and settle in for the night, with a good fire and some more fantastic camp cooking.

Thursday 8th July

After packing up we headed east along a shot line and after following many camel tracks we finally found our first herd of camels, consequently many photos were taken. We then headed north to pickup the beginning (or end, we were 80m above sea level) of the Hay River travelling through some previously burnt off country side, this was one of the least vegetated areas we travelled through over our entire trip, but resembled the picture we all envisaged the desert environment to be.

Winding and twisting our ways across the shimmering red sand of the endless northern Simpson Desert. We forged our way across the trackless desert occasionally sighting the faint tracks of previous expeditions. Then the faint trace of the Hay River outlined by small trees and shrubs once again appeared between the desert dunes, a further 20kms along the track we came to Madigan's Camp 16 (The Blaze Tree). A wave of nostalgia overcame our party as we imagined Madigan passing this point in 1939 with his camels. We all entered our names in the visitors' book and were surprised to find the name of a previous Club Member; George Vlahos had visited this point several years before. We then left and made camp further north in the infantile bed of the Hay River.

Friday 9th July

We woke to a fantastic sunrise, and returned to the Blaze Tree for a group photo

(See front Cover) and to paste a club logo and previous newspaper article in the visitors' book before heading north again. We passed Camp 15 and continued heading north amongst the ever changing Hay River landscape. The wildlife started to be more prolific and we saw camels, emus, dingos, kangaroos, birdlife and the unfortunate remains of a bush turkey. We setup camp about 150kms south of Baton Hill (our final destination) at about 3.30pm. It was time for some hair washing and some showers were had before another fantastic sunset and camp dinner was served.

Saturday 10th July

Another spectacular sunrise was provided by the Simpson Desert before breakfast and camp was packed up and another day of travelling began. We continued north along the Hay River and visited Lake Caroline. There was lots of water surrounding the lake in the nearby clay pans but Lake Caroline was bone dry. We continued our trail up the Hay River with about 20kms of heavy sand driving in a very soft river bed. We climbed out of the river bed onto a nearby firm track and headed north to Baton Hill, arriving about 6.00pm. We were met by Lindsay Bookie who showed us our camp site and a welcoming hot shower was had by all.

To be continued in next months Magazine





SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit
Unit 2
9 Cardiff Court
Cavan

Contact: Jeff Morgan

Home: 8381 5404

Mobile: 0410 665 019

Assessor Course

August 7-8th, 21st-22nd August, 4-5th September

Final grade for training. Held at Cavan. All dates must be attended to qualify.

Details: Christian Whamond 8322 1766

Mud Training

11th & 12th September

Assessment and Skills update.

Details: Jeff Morgan

Hm 83815404 or Mb. 0410665019

Warren Gorge

18th & 19th September

Assessment and Skills update.

Details: Christian Whamond 8322 1766

Advisor Course

13th & 14th November

Morgan

Details: Christian Whamond 8322 1766

Trading Mart

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Simpson Desert - Hay River Trip



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