

Rangers' Review

Volume 9 No. 12 Mount Lofty Rangers Inc. P0 Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

May 2004



Instructors & Attendee's at Club's recent 4WD First Aid Course "Tom with broken legs being readied for transporting"

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Rangers Review

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PRESIDENTS REPORT



G-day,

As club President, this is my final report to you. After being seated in the chair for the past two years you get to appreciate the hard work other members have put in and the time they have sacrificed to keep our club Interesting and active.

Active means trips - and a four wheel drive club wouldn't be a club if the members had nothing to do or any trips to go on. I would like to thank those people who lead trips throughout the year, without them there would be no club.

The Committee I have worked with over the past two years have done an exceptional job throughout and I have enjoyed working with them, thank you heaps.

To the members of Mt Lofty Rangers, I would like to thank everyone who has helped with club events throughout the year, such as the Christmas shows, 4WD Show, club trips, Clayton Raft Race, etc, just coming to meetings and participating in club activities.

Education is a high priory within the club. We have lost trained drivers over the years but are now on top of it and the club can hold its own for training, so thank you to those members who have put there time in on many weekends to train fellow members.

I am looking forward to sitting back and watching the new Committee grab the bull by the horns and get stuck into it. With a new group of people will come new ideas and maybe a new approach to the way the club runs. I wish them all the best with the job at hand.

Another thing I am looking forward to is catching up with new members who have joined over the past year. Being up front you don't get time to meet or

catch up on meeting night.

As it is my last report as Pres I would like to say, for the Mount Lofty Rangers to continue as it has over the past years it needs all of you to get off your butts and put in, fence sitters are no use. With our help the Rangers will remain one of the top clubs to be in for years to come.

Anyway that's about it for me, I hope I haven't missed out anyone, if so, sorry and thank you.

See ya all tonight. Happy Trails

Shaun Lawson River Rats



Tyre Talk

TYRES AIN'T TIRES

Last month I ordered a new camper trailer. So what's this got to do with tyres you ask? Well the trailer comes with three new tyres which, when you think about it, is really a bit of a waste when, for most of the time, they'll be sitting in the driveway. Then some bright spark (I wish it was me) pointed out that if I bought an extra tyre then I could fit the new ones to my vehicle and put the old ones on the trailer. A new set of rubber for the Tojo for a couple of hundred bucks. I'm hooked!

Now my current tyres are the ubiquitous BF Goodrich All Terrain T/A. What's wrong with them? Well nothing really, but I'll talk about them a bit later. I like to try out different things (I'm currently working my way through the catalogue of Australian red wines) so I've been investigating what's around in the tyre market. In doing this I've discovered a few interesting facts that I thought might be of interest to members, especially the new ones.

(Continued on page 8)

News In Brief

Magazine Editor

♠Please note: changes to email addresses.

☆ Use either:

★mlr4wd@yahoo.com.au (preference)

👼 curtismark@ozemail.com.au

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SOCIAL SCENE

Mid Year Dinner— Saturday 19th June 2004, 7:00pm

Horndale Winery, Fraser Avenue, Happy Valley

Come and have a great night at the Horndale Winery for our annual Mid Year Dinner Bash. We will have lots of fun and games! Be there or be square!

Horndale Wines at reasonable prices to drink on the night.

Nibbles and 2 course dinner coffee & Chockys approx \$30 per head

We need \$10 deposit per head at the May meeting please. If you are unable to pay your desposit on this night, you must arrange to pay deposit by 1st June 2004 to a social Committee member. Thanks

Ten Pin Bowling—August 2004

*Bowland Marion. 2 games including shoe hire and light dinner (eg Schnitzel *& Chips or Fish and Chips) \$17.50

Fun for all the family! Maybe some might like to do drinks or a coffee later or what about a movie?

How about a Greater Union Projection Room Tour?

Are you interested in looking around the projection room of the Greater Union Cinema?. For only \$4 you can, it will take about 1 hour.

Put your name on the list which is on the board and we will arrange it for later in the year. As a minimum number is required, we need to known approximate numbers before it can be arranged.

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

Colin

Contact

Colin Forster (Hm) 08 8364 0496 (Mb) 0411 665 562

colin@strategems.com.au

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BACK TO BASICS

What do tyres do apart from keeping the diffs out of the dirt? Quite a bit as it happens. You could forget them altogether and just use oversized rims, which would give a great pyrotechnic display at night and guarantee you a spot on one of those TV police pursuit shows. Even if you avoided the boys in blue, you would find that the grip was worse than a set of Muddies at Mount Thebarton and wheel changes would be a daily event.

We can work out then that a tyre needs to give good traction, good wear characteristics and hopefully allow conversation in the cabin. The last feature allows the driver to tell the kids in the back seat to stop fighting and offer, for the tenth time, your opinion that we are *not* there yet. (I know the fact that you doing 110kph and the tent is still in the bag should be a big clue, but the bleeding obvious does not seem to filter beyond the front row of seats in my car).

In order to keep the tyres more or less circular we fill them full of air. This has the benefit of contributing to the overall suspension effort and saving weight. Imagine trying to lift a solid 4WD tyre! Also the air helps to dissipate the heat caused by friction from the tyre flexing and interaction with the road surface. Adjustment of the amount of air in the tyre allows us to control the ride quality as well as changing the tyre shape for sand driving or carrying heavy loads. Personally I check my tyre pressure every 12 months whether they need it or not! Seriously, by being aware of your tyre pressure you can maximize your ride quality and your bank balance too. Tyre pressures that are either too high or too low will at best shorten the life of the tyres or at worst cause them to self destruct. At prices for a good set of tyre being on the wrong side of a grand, its worth taking the time to keep a check on them. Oh, and don't worry if you can't afford a decent air compressor to pump them up. Just make sure that you pull up next to Layne when you get off the beach. (Thanks, Layne).

CONSTRUCTION

Try fitting a set of rock crawling tyres to your Porsche and check out your lap times around Mallala. Chances are that your times would not be as good as if you

(Continued on page 9)

fitted soft compound, low profile slicks. With tyres its 'horse for courses'. A set of muddies will do better going up the Billy Goat Track in the pouring rain than your highway tread patterned passenger rated units, but wouldn't be as good as them doing 180kph between Katherine and the Alice. So what is the 'best' tyre to buy? There's no such thing, rather just the most suitable for your needs and budget.

When I bought my 80 Series Toyota in 1994 Mr Tojo, in his infinite wisdom, thought it should be shod with passenger type tyres. Great for high speed but hopeless for load carrying or off road use. My local tyre dealer in Broken Hill told me of instances of these tyres bursting at speed on gravel roads due to being heavily loaded. I replaced them with Light Truck (LT) tyres. This style is designed for heavier loads and has stronger sidewalls. Regrettably, although most of us drive our 4WDs mostly on bitumen, we still need to cater for the off road work that we enjoy. LT casing tyres are a must. The alternative is to have a complete second set of tyres to bolt on for the weekends or join the Camry Car Club.

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Calendar of Events June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Flinders Trip
13 Flinders Trip	14 Flinders Trip	15	16	17	18	19 Mid Year Dinner
20	21 Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27 PEAKE	28	29	30			

Calendar of Events July 2004

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

Upcoming Trips

MAY 2004

SUNSET NATIONAL PARK :- MAY LONG WEEKEND 15TH, 16TH & 17TH

2 nights of bush camping and plenty of driving

Details: Merv Tucker 8278 1414

NGARKAT CONSERVATION PARK: - May Long Weekend 15th-17th

Interclub Working Bee—See sheet on board for further details Contact: Sue 8269 2883 / Lloyd 8569 1889 Border Track Maintenance Committee

JUNE 2004

GLENDAMBO OUTBACK:- 12TH TO 14TH

Glendambo will be holding the Glendambo Outback 4x4 Challenge and Field Day. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Boothey via email on thechurch@ozemail.com.au or via telephone on 08 86721097 or 0429 02 158 or visit our website on www.glendambooutback4x4.com.au

FLINDERS RANGES: - JUNE LONG WEEKEND 12TH, 13TH & 14TH

Maximum 10 vehicles. Meeting Friday morning at We are heading to Rawnsley Park Caravan Park to do some bush camping (non powered sites). Willow Springs 4WD Trip 10am Saturday (Sky Trek), Sunday 10am Alpana Station (Mt Samuel), Monday Home. Costs to be advised on Trip Sheet.

Details: Shaun Lawson 8270 7865 AH or 0411 702 742

PEAKE—26TH & 27TH JUNE

Sand driving, camping \$10 per car per night

Details: Ken Bradey 8278 7000 BH

Upcoming Trips

JULY 2004

SIMPSON DESERT: JULY 4TH TO JULY 18TH

Adelaide to Birdsville, Poeppel Corner, Jervois via Batton Hill / Hay River, Alice Springs, Adelaide. Limit 7 Vehicles
Details: Layne Holberton 0412 572 139

ADVANCE NOTICE

CONFLUENCES TRIP: - 11TH-12TH SEPTEMBER 2004

Visit the co-ordinates 140°E 33°S and 141°E 33°S (Yunta area) - these sites have now been visited—will look at other sites or another trip Limit of 8 vehicles

Contact: David Thomas: 0417 852 820 / Mark Curtis 0408 297 065

OCTOBER 2004

NGARKAT CONSERVATION PARK: - TO BE ADVISED

Interclub Working Bee

Contact: Sue 8269 2883 / Lloyd 8569 1889 Border Track Maintenance Committee

LONG WEEKEND IN WHYALLA: -

DETAILS ON TRIP BOARD



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
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)	
Rugby Tops	\$52.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)	Φ26.00
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$26.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)	¢12 00
Caps (including logo embroidered on) NEW ITEM	\$13.00
Bucket Hats (including logo embroidered on & GST)	\$13.00
Ducket Hats (including logo embroluered on & USI)	φ1.J.VV

If you require clothing please speak to a committee member.

ITEMS FOR LOAN

Books (hopefully in the future)

Club Banner

Club Flag

GPS Promotional Videos

Recovery Kit

Tirfor Winch

Puncture Repair Kit *

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.

HEIROGLYPHICS

The size of a tyre is written on the sidewall. A size common to most of us would be LT 265/75R16 120/116 S as on my BFG T/As. These numbers indicate:

- LT Light Truck casing
- 265 Width in mm of the tread but is a nominal rather than exact measurement
- 75 Height of the tyre as an aspect ratio compared to the tread width
- R Radial ply tyre
- 16 Diameter in inches of the wheel rim
- 120 Load carrying capacity if used on a passenger car (1400kg)
- 116 Load carrying capacity if used on a 4Wd or off road (1120kg)
- S Speed rating (in this case max 180kph)

If the same type and brand of tyre was coded LT 285/75R16 its speed rating would be reduced to a Q rating which would be a maximum of 160kph however its load rating would become a 122 which would allow loads of 1500kg per tyre. Overall diameter is increased by 25mm as well.

When ordering tyres make sure you specify LT. For example the Bridgestone Dessert Dueler A/T with the D693 tread pattern comes in both Passenger (P) and LT casings. Guess which one costs more? The A/T version is rated 109S, so 1030kg load with a max speed of 180kph. Just to complicate matters, the new D694 pattern of the same tyre is rated at 112S or 1120kg/180kph.

Now back to my BFG T/As. Mine have done about 27,000km with a mixture of on and off road work. The original tread depth is 12.5mm and it is now around 10mm. Allowing for wear down to the legal minimum of 3mm, at this rate they should last 102,000km, perhaps more as wear rate decreases with (Continued on page 17)



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(Continued from page 15)

mileage due to less squirming of the tread blocks. Having said that, tyres that worn are prone to punctures. Still, you could always stick 'em on your camper trailer.

Cheers

Rick Luff

PS: If you are looking for an objective tyre comparison, check out the article in 4WD Monthly, Issue 51, where they compare 17 All Terrain tyres. The results are quite surprising.

4WD DRIVING - INFORMATION CORNER

After recent club discussions about the Border Track Access problems, I have included 2 articles, for your information. One on the Border Track issue, and the other on Googs Track and public access in general.

These articles can generally be found on our notice board, but if members are interested in having this type of information included into the magazine, please let myself know, editor.

ARTICLE 1

Border Track Article - 4x4 Australia, December 2003

Ian Lacey, PR, ANFWDC, ijal@alphalink.com.au. You may publish the articles but please acknowledge the source as ANFWDC.

Ron Moon got it right in the O. 1 2002 .

the track South of the dune section has been abused to the extent that mud holes more than twenty meters long, and deep enough to submerged a Landcruiser to the roof gutter, have been created. Worse, these are now seen as a further challenge by some who care little for the destruction they are causing.

Well its now come to this. The Border Track was temporarily closed, and may still be closed, denying the responsible four wheel driver the sand driving experience and remote desert beauty this area has to offer, unique in Southern Australia and within reasonable distance of Melbourne and Adelaide. A wide fire break has been cleared to the West of the dunes and a track formed along this break that will allow fire fighting vehicles access.

The indiscriminate and illegal use of motorcycles and four wheel drives along this track, combined with the high usage rate, has all but destroyed Ngarkat Border track. Four wheel drivers and motorcyclists can blame no one else for this closure. No other vehicles can negotiate this track, and no other vehicle has caused the damage and destruction. Sadly those who caused the damage probably wont know or care.

Four Wheel Drive South Australia is talking with National Parks & Wildlife SA in an attempt to reach a workable solution that may see the Border Track, or at least parts of it, open again. It will need a lot of hard negotiation to convince NPWSA that a workable track management regime can be established for the Border Track. It may mean that the track is closed more often when wet conditions could mean that use would cause track damage, or extreme dry conditions increase the fire risk.

In the meantime the track may remain closed and before you plan any trips along the order Track contact the NPWSA at Lameroo on 08 85763890, or email Paul Unsworth at unsworth.paul@saugov.sa.gov.au for advice on conditions and other relevant information.

What can you, as a responsible four wheel driver, do to prevent a repeat of this disgraceful situation? For a start you can report any deliberate track abuse to park management or the police. Its either that or say good bye to more tracks - your choice. The ANFWDC and its State 4x4 Association members do not condone track abuse and will support any moves to identify and eradicate irresponsible four wheel drivers.

ARTICLE 2

PUBLIC ACCESS

Copy of a letter from the Minister of Tourism SA to Paul Shinks, Trip Coordinator, Subaru 4WD Club of SA Inc)

MT 03/04302

Dear Mr Shinks

Thank you for your e-mail dated 23 November 2003, addressed to the Hon John Hill MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation, regarding public access routes throughout South Australia, and in particular, Googs Track.

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to say that from a tourism point of view, recrea-tional four-wheel drivers are not considered to be 'reckless destroyers of the environ-ment'. Indeed, we value this particular market and acknowledge the contribution they make to outback communities and regional economies through their recreational pursuits. As is the case with many outdoor activities, we are keen to ensure the sus-tainability of fragile environments, but this can be better achieved through effective education and interpretation rather than closing areas off and we work in co-operation with the Department for Environment and Heritage to achieve this.

With respect to Googs Track, part of the track is in the process of being gazetted as a Public Access Route. This system enables access to pastoral lease areas of the State where there are no existing public roads and the responsibility for indemnity lies with the State rather than the lessee.

Before this can be done, a process is being undertaken to realign the northern extrem-ity of the track where it leaves the Yellabinna Regional Reserve and travels across the pastoral lease to the railway line. The lessee has agreed to this realignment that will take the traffic away from the dingo proof fence and also away from the station infra-structure.

There are also some safety concerns on this route due to the large number of

sand hill crossings posing the potential for head on crashes. This will be ad-dressed by promoting direction of travel from the south to the north, al-though I am sure you would appreciate the difficulty in actually policing this given the remote location.

The larger part of Googs Track runs through Yellabinna Regional Reserve and I am assured by the Department for Environment and Heritage's Regional Manager that there are no plans to close this road. In fact, he is confident that there will be upgrades made over coming years to enhance the experience for recreational four-wheel drivers and ensure the surrounding environment is suitably protected.

Far from diminishing, the number of public access routes for four-wheel drive enthusiasts is expanding. There are currently 18 different routes totalling some 600 kms which have been gazetted and several other routes are currently being proposed. In addition, there are a number of private four-wheel drive tracks in areas such as the Flinders Ranges and Eyre Peninsula.

Thank you for supporting tourism in regional areas of South Australia, and I trust that my response has allayed your concerns regarding our perception of the recreational four-wheel drive market and its importance to the State's economy.

Yours sincerely

(this document is unsigned due to electronic trans-mission)

Jane Lomax-Smith MINISTER FOR TOURISM 17/12/03



SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit Unit 2 9 Cardiff Court Cavan

Contact: Ian Mangelsdorf

Home:

8384 5691

Mobile:

0414 677 858

Training Small Groups at Cavan

Saturday 29th—30th May AND Saturday 19th-20th June

Details: Christian Whamond 8322 1766

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

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

NEW TRAINING SITE

Jamie Grundy's Property — Now Operational - Mud Training area-Bookings required, future club training event to be organised

Trading Mart

FOR SALE:

Things for sale to suit 80 Series Landcruiser

ARB Winch bar \$500 Warn HS9500 winch \$1200 Headlight protectors \$20

Bonnet protector \$35

Rola Roof bars (set of 2) \$200

Rhino roof bar foot mounts (6 of) \$100

BFG All terrains 285/75 R16 worn 20% \$160ea

Sahara leather centre console lid with extra storage compartment \$200

Hella Rally 2000 1 driving 1 pencil beam \$80

Front & Rear Diff Locks \$700 each

See Layne Holberton 0412 572 139

4 RUNNER DELUXE FIBREGLASS FLARES—Full body fitting, new

with fitting kit \$300

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□ See Darren Callary 0404099397

Warning:

Most States now have large fines for driving on closed tracks.

The South Australian unsealed Outback road network is one of the State's greatest assets. They can be dusty when dry, or prone to flood damage after rain. The roads are often closed after rain to prevent further damage and to ensure the safety of road users. Severe penalties apply for motorists travelling on closed roads.

Road Conditions Hotline - 1300 361 033.

NB - Just because a track is shown on a map does NOT mean
 the public can access that track - tracks shown on the RAA Map No
 13 "Outback" are open to the public - NRAU Newsletter

Your Committee

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