



Rangers' Review

Volume 10 No.5

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

October 2004



Which one of these three has parked their car in this position ?

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"President Report"



Welcome all,

Once again Tim had organised a great guest speaker, who certainly stirred some remarks from the members, good to see. I believe there may have been a mix up with this month's speaker due to the public holiday in October, but we may be able to re schedule. All you ladies will be pleased as it's a tyre man.

As I sit here doing the report I am looking forward to catching up with a large group of you at this year's camp cook out at Jacks paddock. Last year was great with heaps of good food to try and plenty of laughs. Hopefully the social team can take the camp cook weekend under their wing and make it an annual event.

A couple of weekends ago, I headed up to Warren Gorge, (just north of Quorn in the southern Flinders Ranges) to do some Driver Training with the DTU. It was great to see a good showing from MLR as trainers and assessors for the weekend. The DTU will be organising more of these type of events where they will be offering advanced assessments to club members, but they can't do it without help. Thanks to Layne Holberton, Jeff Morgan, George Hanioutis and Tim Byrne for coming along and helping out, and thanks to their partners for being supportive.

A big gathering of MLR members went up to Whyalla for their annual long weekend of driving and sight seeing. I here that it was a good show with a great atmosphere and there was heaps to do. I say every year that I'll go next year, but as yet not had a chance to get there, maybe next year.

Next week is the 4wd show, and all has been organised for our stand, I have the passes and will be giving them out to the people that have put their names on the list to help for the weekend. Again, many thanks to Dave for volunteering to man the stand for the three days of the show. I have just been notified that Nissan will have their new Patrol on the 4wd test track, so if anyone is thinking of upgrading and looking to go for a drive, then come over and see me at the test track and Ill do my best to take you for a drive.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Take care.

Christian

FAMILY DAY IN THE SOUTHERN VALES

The day starts off with a late arrival just as we were about to venture into our first track. Leading up to the morning tea break outside of Woodstock Winery the tracks were generally easy.

After morning tea, the late arrivals found themselves to be the 2nd car onto the tracks. The only challenge to hold things up before lunch, was a sandy climb where one vehicle had traction problems in a hole left by the lead car, but still managed to get through by filling and packing the wet sand. Managed to drive out without being towed.

All other vehicles then had an easy pass over this section, There were several shallow water crossings and steep climbs but the weather had been fine enough for these to be easy challenges.

Lunch was had at the Tapestry winery.

After lunch we visited the Richard Hamilton Cellar and after some tasting and purchases we found several other tracks to negotiate in the general area of the Willunga Airstrip. The only mishap being a Land Rover requiring recovery assistance after failing to maintain traction through a very deep drain which had

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News In Brief

At a recent training day, a very much experienced club driver and very, very, very high up member of the committee managed to be able to park his car in a very awkward position. He tells me it was for training purposes,! See front cover—"one of the three is the driver". Any guesses? -

It must have been a bad month as again the editor has heard on the grapevine of another very, very high up committee member and experienced club driver (different to the one above but one level down) who went out for a test driver one night on some local tracks.. Low and behold he soon got himself bogged in a creek bed. But wait, worst was to come, unable to get out of the situation an SOS had to be put out to other club members for assistance. Any guess's who ?



Future Meeting Dates

December	13 th
January	No Meeting
February	14 th
March	14 th
April	11 th
May	9 th (AGM)



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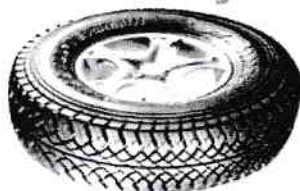
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quite steep sides.

After a couple of families had to leave the group for other commitments, the remainder ventured back over some tracks all ready covered.

I believe there may have been another bogging, and from all accounts provided the group with some light entertainment as the trip leader 2 feet from the bitumen seemed to be in trouble.

Everybody enjoyed themselves on a well planed outing.

Well done to the organiser.

Regards the newcomers

Breton and Rebecca Fry

Ps the Hilux wagon was slowed up in the sand but didn't need recovery assistance unlike the Landrover!

SECOND PART OF SIMPSON TRIP

Sunday 11th July

After a yummy breakfast we all went on a Bush Tucker and Cultural Awareness Tour with Lindsay. We had to make room for Lindsay in one of the cars so Lindsay went with the Holberton's and Troy had the privilege of traveling with the Tuckers. We left camp at about 10.00am and soon stopped and went for a walk in the Hay River and followed some echidna tracks, but he got away from us. It was then back into the cars in search for bush honey which cordial can be made from. Then it was time to taste some bush tomatoes, these need to be ripe and are very tasty, but if they are not ripe they are very bitter. Bush cucumbers were also found and they are quite tasty as well. There was some walking up rocky hills and some interesting stories from Lindsay and some good 4x4 driving around the rugged country. Lunch was had in the shade of some Gidgee trees. We also went digging around the roots of numerous trees in search of Widdidgee grubs but we did not succeed in finding any. We finished that part of the days driving at about 3.00pm and had traveled about 50kms. We were off again at about 4.30pm to see the sunset at Goyder's Pillar. This included more climbing up rocky hills and more spectacular views of Central Australia. It was then back to camp for dinner and a chat with Lindsay and

Emu for supper. Lindsay and his family cooked an Emu Drumstick that evening and we watched and assisted with some of the cooking procedure.

Monday 12th July

After hot showers were had by all we packed up camp had a group photo with Lindsay then we headed for Alice Springs. First stop was to be at Jervois Homestead for some fuel (this was the first fuel since Birdsville some 700 km behind us). We saw more camels along this road and had to follow some until they found a nice soft exit inland. After refueling both the cars and ourselves with morning tea it was along the Plenty Highway, (this road goes from dirt, to one lane wide bitumen in the middle of the road then to two lane bitumen) to Gem Tree where we had pies/pasties and ice creams for lunch. After a look through the Gem Tree gem shop it was back on the road, down the Stuart Highway, over the Tropic of Capricorn and a quick look at The Ghan as it left Alice Springs going under the highway heading for Darwin. We arrived in Alice Springs at about 4.15pm and looked over Alice from Anzac Hill before heading to the caravan park. It was then time to set up camp, get the clothes washing done and find something for dinner. This was also an evening when we did different things: Mark & Paul stayed with Paul's friends, the Orbons & Jones's dined out while the Tucker's & Holberton's had pizza at the caravan park.

Tuesday 13th July

This was the day our group split, the Orbons & Jones had previously seen some of the sights so they took a different route home, (keep a lookout for their Trip Report). Some cars were washed and grocery shopping done and relatives visited, we all went different ways this day. The Holberton's visited the small but interesting Reptile Park in Alice Springs, this was informative & we saw a snake being fed. It was then time for a 4 metre Green Tree Python to slither across the shoulders of all brave onlookers. Layne was one of them at it looked straight in to his eyes, he was very brave, unlike Troy & me. We then met up with the others and the boys went to the Transport Museum and the girls walked around Alice Springs & and of course we did some shopping.

The Transport Museum is well worth a visit, it has hundreds of vehicle of all shapes and sizes from all over Australia, most have been restored and there is a workshop on site where volunteers are restoring old trucks. It is very easy to

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wonder around for a couple of hours and appreciate how tough it was in the old days in some of the big rigs that transported goods across the outback.

Wednesday 14th July

With all the washing of clothes, bodies and hair done it was time to pack up camp and head for the outback again. We left Alice Springs at about 10.30am after refueling, visiting a Bakery and a quick walk down Todd Mall and into a shop or two. Then it was off to Rainbow Valley through some more spectacular and ever changing scenic landscapes. We walked down to Rainbow Valley to have a closer look and walk around as much of it as you are allowed. There are spectacular colours in the sandstone rock and interesting rock formations or should I say the remains of. It was then time for lunch and a bit of reading at the Information Bay, then off to Chambers Pillar, arriving there at about 4.00pm. We discovered the camping area was full so we back tracked and found a great camping spot behind a sand dune, we quickly set up camp and returned to Chambers Pillar for sunset. We walked around and up a few rickety steps which go part way up the side of the Pillar and who should we find but David Reyne & the Getaway crew. After some photos, walking back down those steps, we walked to the viewing area and watched the sunset over Chambers Pillar & of course took more photos it was then time to go back to camp to organise another great camp cooked dinner.

Thursday 15th July

Early rise for some, to watch the sunrise on Chamber Pillar from the hilltop close to camp. Broke camp about 9.30am and headed to Maryvale Homestead (There is also an Aboriginal Community on the station). We went for a quick tour around the Community before stopping at the General Store for ice creams for morning tea & an interesting conversation with the Station Manager. From Maryvale we headed to Finke along what must be the roughest most corrugated road in Australia, sometimes we were on the race track some times on the road what ever appeared to be the smoothest. We drove through Finke and looked around at the Railway Siding before heading to the Lambert Centre, the Geographic Centre of Australia. Of course there were more photos taken then it was time to find a camp site for the evening.

Friday 16th July

We awoke to another great sunrise but this was a frosty morning so we had a relaxed breakfast while our swags dried out before we could pack up camp. It was

then off again in the direction of Mt Dare Station. We had to make a few minor detours because of some remaining flood waters and damage to the road. We had lunch just outside Mt Dare Station and then headed south back into South Australia & onto Dalhousie Springs. No one went for a swim in the springs, the water was warm but the wind was freezing cold. We continued our journey and stopped at a little oasis in the middle of nowhere, Dalhousie Homestead Ruins. We had an interesting walk around & some interesting photos were taken. We continued our journey south and saw a few more Sidings from the Old Ghan Railway before we setup camp south of Hamilton Homestead.

Saturday 17th July

After packing up camp it was off down the Oodnadatta Track and looked at some relics from the Overland Telegraph. It was a quick look through Oodnadatta, the main features being the Open Air Cinema and The Pink Roadhouse. It was Hot Chips all round for morning tea before heading off down the Oodnadatta Track. We stopped for a look and walk part way along the Algebuckina Bridge (Part of the Old Ghan Railway Heritage Trail), then it was onto the Peake Telegraph Repeater Station and Peake Station Historic Site for a wander around. Time was passing very quickly this day and we had lots to see and distances to travel so lunch was consumed during transit. William Creek was soon upon us so it was in the Pub for a quick drink and wander around before we were back on the road again. There was more evidence of the recent flooding with many deep ruts in the road. With the temperature quickly getting colder we stopped for a quick look at the Mound Springs before heading back down the Oodnadatta Track. We stopped to collect firewood & as it was now very cold & about 5.20pm we decided we would keep driving to Roxby Downs refuel & get a Motel room for the night. Either Pizza or Steak was consumed for dinner and a long awaited shower was had before retiring for the evening.

Sunday 18th July

“And then there were two”. Mark & Paul were on a mission, they departed Roxby Downs at 7.00am, stopped for a cuppa at Port Augusta and then they were home by 1.55pm. The Tuckers & Holberton’s departed the motel at about 8.20am and had a good drive around Roxby Downs before heading to Woomera. We drove around the town and saw many empty houses, flats and units. We also looked

(Continued on page 11)

SOCIAL SCENE

CAMP COOK WEEKEND – 9th and 10th October 2004

Hopefully the Camp Cook weekend went well with lots of different dishes made and tried and some helpful hints and tips learnt. It appears the weather should have been great for the weekend.

DECEMBER MEETING & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

– Monday 13th December

Christmas is fast approaching. Father Christmas will be coming to our December meeting (as he did last year). The evening will begin at about 6.30pm with a BBQ and salads provided for our dinner. Father Christmas will be coming with presents for all the children. Don't forget it is up to you to provide a present for your children or grandchildren which Father Christmas will give them. Please wrap and name your presents, maximum cost about \$20.00. The presents can be given to Linda, Lyn, Jo or Julie at either meeting and they will discreetly put them in Santa's sack. The meeting will commence at about 7.45pm with a coffee and sweets break in the middle. Could each family please bring a small plate of sweets to share, there will be a table available for these to be put on.

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

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

around the park at the old army and rocket range relics. It was then onto Port Augusta for lunch, we all chose something different from different shops and we regrouped at a BP Roadhouse for a cappuccino before heading towards home. Then it was back to civilisation, traffic & traffic lights. We arrived home at about 6.00pm. That was the end of a great holiday. We saw many fantastic sights & ever changing country side. We live in a great country you must go & explore it yourself. I was very pleased that I had washed & ironed Troy's school uniform as tomorrow it was back to school & work for us all.

Holberton's

Party No 2 Report—Heading Home

After a great trip heading north and arriving safely in Alice Springs it was time to head south. Just 2 vehicles Sherpa and Zulu headed west as the rest of the crew were going over territory that we experienced the previous year. Owen Springs Reserve just 66 km's away We stopped at Redbank to check a watering hole. Here there were several large fish . Some sort of Carp at 18 inches long We carried on along the riverbed, which was lined with huge eucalypts. We soon found a great camping spot on a grassy edge to the riverbed. We soon set up camp and were entertained by large flocks of noisy Mitchell Cockatoos settling into the trees for the night. We had a great fire going with the plentiful wood all around and enjoyed Butter Chicken and for those that needed it a warming brandy or 3. We had a great time viewing the bright starry night a sure sign of the cold and thick frost and near freezing temperatures that greeted us on awakening. A noisy dawn chorus and breathtaking sunrise soon took the pain of cold away.

Onwards towards Ormiston Gorge where we saw the oldest homestead in the Northern Territory. We followed the West MacDonnell Range and called into a Glen Helen for a much-enjoyed cold beer. We took a walk to some great reflections in their water hole where we passed a TV crew setting up all their equipment including a massive satellite dish to record a weather programme the following morning.

From here we went to get a close up view of Mount Sonder made famous by aboriginal painter Albert Namingeri. That night we camped in great spot

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Calendar of Events

October 2004

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

Calendar of Events

November 2004

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

Upcoming Trips

OCTOBER

Victorian High Country Trip: 31st October to 6th November

This is the first time this trip has officially appeared as a club trip. Thanks Greg. Some very stringent conditions have been applied to this trip and the reasons for these conditions are 2 fold.

1. Experience has shown that the trip can be classed as **difficult to very difficult**. Conditions due to the time of year and tracks driven will test both the vehicle and the driver. Therefore as a club trip, the club have a responsibility to ensure that members are suitably experience and vehicle suitable for the terrain.
2. If unsuitable vehicles or inexperienced drivers come along they not only place themselves and their vehicle at risk but also the vehicles and other participants.. Therefore is also a need to preserve the enjoyment of all those going.

Hence the reason for the stringent conditions being applied.

Trip Leader: Greg Goding

Refer trip board

JULY 2005: Anne Beadell Highway: 9th to 24 July

Will head west from Coober Pedy along the Anne Beadell Highway. At this stage return route unknown—may head north and back through the Great Australian Desert or head south and back along the Nullarbor. Remote bush travelling and few refuelling places, so vehicles must be prepared to suit. Persons interested **MUST** also be prepared to commit to trip early next year as permits need to be organised

Mark Curtis. Trip limit 8–10 vehicles



SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit
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Cavan

Contact: Jeff Morgan

Home: 8381 5404

Mobile: 0410 665 019

Advisor Course

13th & 14th November

Morgan

Details: Christian Whamond 8322 1766

several kilometres up the Riverbed at Glen Helen. There were several people camped along this route but as ever the adventurer we travelled quite a way in to ensure our privacy and peace and quiet. Here again a great camp sight with a massive fire near a water hole that given those reflection that absolutely mirrored. We got some great camera shots that could be held either way up.

We left here at our predictable time of 9.30am next stop being Red Bank Gorge for a coffee break and then onwards towards Hermannsburg. Sudden tragedy, a flat for Sherpa. After a quick change onward to Hermannsburg to get the tyre repaired. We girls took off to the Hermannsburg Mission for afternoon Tea and a tour of the property while the boys hunted for some assistance to fix the problem 3hours later on towards the fink River and Boggy Hole. It took us a while to find the well disguised entrance as trees grow and disguised signage kept us off the scent. We remembered Boggy hole being a great spot from our last trip and had to get in there. Now getting dark rapidly we speeded a head to find that ever elusive camp spot. 6pm found us setting up camp and doing hasty wood collection to fend off the approaching cold.

On tonight's menu was chilly con carne perfect to warm us from the inside.

(Continued on page 23)



MT LOFTY RANGERS

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Name Badges	
Initial 2 on joining	FREE
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Please see a committee member for the above purchases.

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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
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Club Flag	Puncture Repair Kit *
GPS Promotional Videos	First Aid Kit *
Maps	4 x Lightweight Shelters with sides.

* Please replace used items

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4WD and Adventure Show ADELAIDE 2004

Friday * Saturday * Sunday
October 15th, 16th & 17th

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 - Modified Poly Water Tank to suit ute \$50 ono
 - Window Side glass Slide to suit challenge canopy \$100 ono
- Contact Tim Byrne 0412 527 176

-
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Contact Anthony.Tavelli@gfmb.com.au>

And the medicinal brandy. An early night tonight in swags by 9.00pm.

Up at 6.30 and heading for 27 degrees our earliest departure yet at 8.30am to enjoy the continued journey down the Fink. The actual Boggy hole was only 20 minutes down the track. Being cautious of the depth of the hole and unknown large boulders the boys stripped down to jocks and gave us a laugh as they waded out to check the route. With echoing screams and whistles from the murky depths Lyn and I prepared a warm drink a towel dry clothes for the return of these brave warriors. They determined it was too deep so we took the high track along the edge that saw us creeping over steep sloppy boulders.

Continuing our journey we camped off the road just past Marla. Where yet another tragedy in spiky terrain. Another tyre. Where is the repair kit when you need it? Typically it was with the other crew. Soon fixed and forever forward with the risk of no spare. But at least we would be on the open road.

An early departure once again 8am. Eager now to get home

Next stop a hot chocolate and cake at Cagney Park and try and get that tyre fixed. No luck

On toward Coober Pedy for fuel and to get some tyre levers to take on the job ourselves. We were successful but as we had lost so much time decided to take the risk and fix the tyre if necessary.

Next stop Glendambo with the girls driving now and the boys getting some much needed sleep. Here the country is so flat and featureless with a few salt lakes dotted around. The final stop was Mambray Creek near Port Pirie for more fuel and physiological adjustments and a straight road ahead for home arriving at 7.30. tired, but well satisfied of a most successful and most enjoyable trip. So many memories and a couple of thousand photos between us all lots to look back on. We had a most fantastic time and wouldn't have missed it for anything.

Thankyou Layne for all your hard work on planning the trip and Hubert for our southward journey.

Zulu

Your Committee

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