

# Rangers' Review

Volume 11 No.1 (No.2?)

**Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.** 

August 2005



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Rangers Review

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# "Editors Report "



For a change what is the Editor's take on the club?

I think we have a Committee that has the future of the club at heart, with a lot more trips being talked about. Of course these take people to make a reality. Both as trip leaders, helpers and of course those who just want to come along.

I believe we are all here because we actually want to take the 4WDs out and get them dirty, or travel places we can't otherwise. We aren't members because we want the 7-seater to take the kids to school.

We may not all be into Cape York trips every month but the chance to interact with other people, find out the great spots, and of course get vehicle hints is the great thing about the club.

I have been a member of another SA club, and also attended another a couple of times before I decided on MLR. So why this one? Well, we actually talk about doing things. One of the others was more interested in reading about the minutes of last month's meetings. The other was full of older members who only wanted to plan 4-6 week trips, not much use to those of us who still have to work for a living.

MLR is about people going out and having fun, and enjoying this great country we live in. As well as learning tips and techniques that you can only learn by experiencing them. Everyone will get into trouble sooner or later, and the advantage of going out with like minded friends is you will learn how to get out of the situation. And some club training may help you take the lead when nobody else knows what to do!

I encourage everyone to be part of the club, share the places they know that may not be common knowledge and organise a trip there.

We went on one a few weeks ago that was just a play, though it has shown us an area that may be available to club members. It wasn't a club trip as it was organised at the last minute amongst friends as a recce but we had a great time east after a lot of rain. Tracks that would be easy in the dry—weren't, leading to at least one very interesting recovery.

So what is the message here? Take the lead—if you know somewhere you would like to introduce people to then do it. It can be a half day trip, a weekender or a week. We did the trip leader exercise at last month's meeting, which hopefully has given you an idea of what is involved. If you aren't still confident, then ask for help. Anyone who has led one before will be happy to help you plan it.

I am leading my first official club trip this week up the Strez as I write this. That's not exactly minor (though definitely not hard core), and the 4WDing won't be that hard.

We won't be doing hard 4WD unless the weather turns really bad, but at the same time we need to plan for being remote. None of us have a HF, so we have a satphone instead. We have the club first aid kit. We have food for about 3 weeks (a lot dried) in case we get rained in. And of course lots of water, even though indications are there is lot available.

And guess what—this is my first club trip as leader, though I have led a couple of informal trips with friends back in Sydney. But into places where the NRMA would have liked a few dollars for a tow! It's not rocket science. It's just common sense.

So my first club trip as a leader is remote. Do I feel nervous? Not at all. The planning has been done. The preparations have been made. We are ready. Go out and organise one yourself? Who is up to organise the next Goog's Trip? Not hard core but I will donate a bottle of Johnnie Walker Red to whoever puts it up if they haven't led one before!

Enjoy the meeting and hope you all have some trips planned!



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# SIMPSON DESERT TRIP (cont) JUNE 2005

## by Rick Luff

## Day 7

A week into the trip and after another clear but damp night we broke camp at 8:40.

On the way to Poeppel's Corner we met up with three Discos from the Victorian Landrover/D2AU Club that were heading west. A few of the members were known to us and we stopped for morning tea.

It turned out that they too had been having suspension problems.

The road to the Corner was quite good with 40kph being possible. At the Corner there is an information display and a board walk. We ran around the corner post, transiting SA, NT and QLD with each revolution. (I wonder if that entitles me to frequent flyer points?). We also removed some graffiti from the information board.

From there it was northwest into the Northern Territory then a wide right hand loop into Queensland and east along the QAA Line.

Along the track we found a discarded canvas covered Hilux tray filled with tyres, camping gear and a gas bottle. We couldn't figure out why it was there. As there was no axle or "A" frame we couldn't see how it could be a trailer. Later on we discovered that it was indeed a trailer that had fallen to pieces. In Birdsville the trailer and its contents were swapped for a tank of fuel so it is now owned by the proprietor of the Shell Road House.

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The dunes here are about 22 meters high with the areas in between becoming increasingly flat. We made camp 33 km from Big Red, you guessed it, between two more sand hills.

Tomorrow we plan to play on Big Red and then on to Birdsville for a pub meal and a shower (not necessarily in that order).

#### Day 8

During the night we had a visit from a wino dingo that kept playing with the empty beer cans and wine bottle. He must have brought a few with him, as there were a few more there in the morning than I remember from last night.

Seven kilometres from Big Red Paul got hung up in deep ruts and had to be coaxed out with a snatch strap. The plastic bags over boots came in handy here.

Arrived at Big Red at 10:00. It was a bit of a surprise really, as we had been over so many sand hills so far we didn't expect THE sand hill to just pop up. There are1109 sand hills in the Simpson Desert. Don't agree with that number? Well you'll just have to count them yourself next year when you come along with us.

Anthony had a couple of tries on the right hand track and nailed it the third time after dropping his tyre pressures further to 16 psi. Both Rob and Paul tried the straighter left hand track with Rob scoring on his second try and Paul earning the right to put the sticker on his car "I climbed Big Red the first time".

The top of Big Red is 75 metres above sea level, despite the sign indicating 90 metres. Apparently is was 90 metres last year but strong summer winds have chopped the top off and moved the whole thing 3 metres. This time it was 32 metres or about 100 feet above the flats so it is still a significant challenge.

Birdsville had had 20mm of rain followed by another 20mm and

the clay-topped road in was wet and slippery in parts. We arrived at Birdsville at 1:15 and booked into the caravan park. After an S, S and S (Slow Shower and Shave) we explored the town and had an evening meal at the Famous Birdsville Pub.

That afternoon the recovery vehicle went out to retrieve a Patrol that had rolled after losing a front wheel when half of the studs had sheared. Fortunately no one was hurt and the written off vehicle was brought in that evening.

For the record, Birdsville is 1984 kilometres from Flagstaff Hill – the long way.

## Day 9

Breakfast at the Birdsville Bakery was followed by a tour of the working Museum. This is a must for visitors, but allow at least two hours. I had found an old Johnny Walker whisky bottle in the desert, which I gave to John, the colourful proprietor. He told me it was probable from the 1950's, so I suppose one of the oil men had drained it while sitting around a camp fire and just tossed it away.

By ten o'clock we were on the Birdsville Track having left Paul and Sue to travel on to Brisbane for a wedding.

The road varied between silky smooth and totally chopped up, with surprisingly few corrugations. Fuel stop at Mungerannie, top up at Hawker and then on to Maree.

In the distance we could see dark clouds and lightning. Rather than risk being stuck in Maree, we had a quick burger and drove on to Leigh Creek, straining our eyes to avoid hitting kangaroos or sheep.

We got to Leigh Creek at 7:45, fifteen minutes before the town shut down for curfew. I you want to pay \$90 for a cold cabin with no spare blankets or breakfast bowls, then this is the place for you.

This is the first time I've eaten Corn Flakes out of a beer glass! No need to worry about the loud bangs during the night either, its just the locals throwing rock onto the roof.

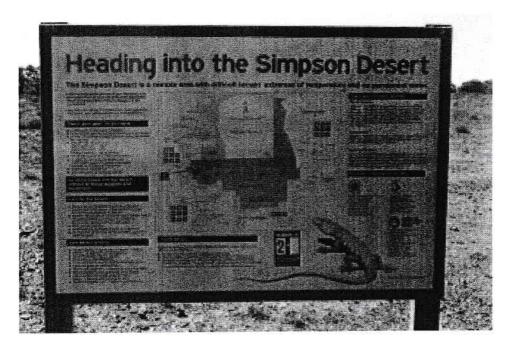
## **Day 10**

An easy 400 km the next day and home to a hot shower, plenty of light while cooking dinner, proper toilet facilities – and hours of cleaning equipment and cars. I wouldn't be dead for quids.

### **Prologue**

The Simpson is a must and can be achieved by most well prepared travellers. Just remember not to rush it. Who knows when you'll have the time to return.

For more information just talk to Rick or Anthony or any of the other club members who have gone before them.



## 4WD Weekend In Whyalla

The 4WD Weekend in Whyalla is a fun, non competitive event designed to bring 4WD clubs from all over South Australia together for the interest we share and to showcase Whyalla and its surrounding a r e a s

This event is open to all financial members of the South Australian 4WD association. For Insurance purposes all weekend participants must be financial members of an SAAFWDC Club, and register this event with your Club as a Club Trip.

#### Activities include:

- Get to Know Your GPS
- Night Navigation Challenge
- Mt Laura Circuit
- Tagalong Tours
- Andrews Canyon
- Camp Oven Cooking Challenge

Options for those who prefer some social/touring include various Whyalla tours such as the Maritime Museum and City Tours. And of course it is a great social event.

I went a couple of years ago (unluckily missed last year) and this is an event not to be passed on. Camping at the Showgrounds (toilets/showers onsite). A great social occasion as well as a chance to have a play on some terrain we just don't get near Adelaide. You can drive as much as you like, or socialize around the campfire instead in the evening. And the test track leaves the one at the 4WD show for dead, but the Suzuki enjoyed it!!!

# SOCIAL SCENE

#### MID YEAR DINNER

It was our Mid Year Dinner on Saturday evening at The Flagstaff Hotel. Hopefully all that attended enjoyed the evening.

## CAMP COOK WEEKEND 8th and 9th October 2005

This weekend will be held at Jack's Paddock, Kuitpo Forest and you can arrive any time after 12.00noon. Jack's Paddock is 2.25kms pass Kuitpo Forest Head Quarters/Information Centre on Brookman Road (heading to McLaren Flat). Access if from Christmas Hill Road which is opposite the Kuitpo Hall. It is possible there will be a closed gate into Jack's Paddock which you will have to open & then close after you.

We will be bush camping (Camper Trailers, Vans, Tents or swags), but if it rains there is a large shelter to keep dry under, there is also an envior drop toilet. Dinner will be shared on Saturday evening with each family cooking either your favourite camp meal or why not try something new. If you are looking for a recipe, speak with either Lyn Morgan or Julie Holberton at a Club Meeting or call us, we have a variety of great camp oven recipes which you can use.

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 GPS course laid out which will only be approx 3kms round trip. Don't forget to pack some comfortable, covered walking shoes and long trousers to avoid leg scratches from pine tree debris on the ground.

There will be a cost of \$20.00 per family or \$10.00 per person for the weekend. This will be a fun weekend and you can learn some useful information on the use of your GPS and your Camp Oven.

We need fire wood for this weekend so all donations will be gratefully accepted. The more wood we can source from club members the less we will have to purchase. If you are able to donate some fire wood please advise Jeff Morgan or a member of the Social Committee.

#### **CAMP COOKING SAFETY**

No children to be playing with the fire

Only adults are to re-stock the fire

Heavy leather gloves must be worn if attending the camp oven

Full covered shoes must be worn if attending the camp oven

Full length trousers are recommended when near the fire

Any accidents or dangerous occurrence shall be reported immediately to the person in charge and subsequently in writing to the president of the Mt Lofty Rangers.

A First Aid Kit will be supplied, only to be used by authorised persons.

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

**Social Committee** 

## August 2005

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

CM Club Meeting

AGM Association General Meeting—Cavan 07:30 pm

ST Strezlecki Trip

# September 2005

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

CM Club Meeting

## So you are going to plan a trip...

After last month's meeting we came up with some interesting ideas from the different groups on what is needed to run a trip. Here are an edited selection of ideas. Just go ahead and do it, it's not that hard!!!

## McLaren Vale Day trip

Trip leaders details

Adults only (XXX)

Minimum drivers, maximum seats

Date time meeting place

\*List of wineries by nomination

Plan route

Map of tracks and local knowledge

Plan BBQ lunch (Kay Brothers)

Cost - mostly spending money

Trip leader (plus one) reccy trip

Tours - bookings?

#### Coorong Day Trip

Notice on trips board + min/max vehicles

Route - research for access and restrictions

Distance

Experience required?

Costs for access

Drive route to get experience

Breaks - toilet/food breaks, stops for families

Vehicle requirements

Sand flags

Radio

Equipment both personal and communal

\*NPWS

\*Meeting point

Objective - main attraction

Trip report

Radio channels

First Aid kit

Lollies for the gates

## Port Lincoln (5 days)

Dates and let trip coordinator know

Vehicle check

Weather considerations

Contact accommodation

Local 4WD club?

Route

Rest periods, fuel etc

Meeting point

Organise day trips in advance – fishing sight seeing

Approximate the costs

Objective - what is the trip about 4WD or social

Trip report

Township Maps

Get people on the trip involved in leading convoy

Organise the pub

\* Tourist centre

First aid experience

Trip log

#### Simpson Desert

Beer

Only turbo diesel landcruisers

Fridge

Backup battery

Coca-cola for hangovers

Water and food

Sat phone to

🐔 Gin

Take one map in case GPS and laptop fail

Equipment – petongue for those lazy afternoons

- Spares

Matches

Good insurance

Medication and first aid kit

Caffeine/Speed(OMG!)

Dire Straits and Led Zeppelin CDs

Gate nigger(!)

**Toilet Paper** 

These were some of the serious (and not so serious suggestions) — more for next month! But really any trip just takes a bit of sitting down and thinking about what if any special equipment might be needed, then of course the basic necessities like food, water and so on.

/ That's not to say the first trip you organise should be the Anne Beadell Highway, but a day trip or weekender will help you find your feet. Just ask some advice if you feel nervous. But if you know somewhere to go share it with us!

\*



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**Rangers Review** 

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## Member Profile

Hi my name is Paul Taboone and I am fortunate enough that my wife Annette and two boys Jordan and Kyah all enjoy 4WDing and camping. I myself have been 4WDing an camping with my parents since I was a kid.

I joined the Mt Lofty Rangers almost 2 years ago to gain more experience afer having



done a weekend course for 200 odd dollars. (Nowhere near as good as club training). I have since attended the basic training course and other advanced training weekends and gained a lot of experience and knowledge from all the guys who put their weekends aside to train us. This has enabled me to travel with extra knowledge and comfort, and most importantly gives Annette the sense of security that at least I have this training and experience so she can relax! Well sort of!

My 1st 4WD was a Toyota Hilux 2.8 diesel that took us on some great trips including 4 weeks up the centre to Ayers Rock etc and on to Darwin when Jordan was only 2. Being that we take a camper trailer on all our trips we need a 4WD with a bit more pulling power. So I now have a 100 Series Toyota Landcruiser turbo diesel manual with a few extras to make for comfortable offroad travel.

From my point of view the most valuable of these are the Mickey Thompson tyres, LTR shockers, springs upgrade and Blue Tongue compressor. Since having this cehicle we have done a lot of trips including following the old Ghan railway line to Alice and a crossing of the Simpson with trailer in tow. I am fortunate enough all this goes hand in hand with my job being the manufacture of Adventure Offroad Campers at Edwadstown which is taking me out to Cameron Corner and Innamincka at the end of July.

Www.adventurecampers.com.au—check out our website.

My favourite family club trips so far have been the January long weekends at Beachport.

## **Upcoming Trips**

## October 1-3: Whyalla 4WD Get together: Long \* weekend

Yes, the annual event is back on at Whyalla showgrounds. ★ More details later.

## October 8-9: Jack's Paddock

Confirmed, camping and cookfires.

## 🌣 Future planned trips, no dates yet

- Robertstown
- Barmera

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- **Pyrenees**
- Monarto-Murray Bridge club's training/play area-and possibly another private property we found recently

More will be said about these at the meeting, also remember & Clean Up Australia Day for next year, contact Tim Byrne for more details on this one.

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#### **MLR Club Training**

Contact:

Jeff Morgan

Home:

8381 5404

Mobile:

0410 665 019

#### **Under Development:**

1. GPS—Overview of use of GPS's - Date TBA

2. Oziexplorer—Overview of use of Oziexplorer — Date TBA

3. Sand Driving Training for the next Peake trip if required

#### **CLUB TRAINING**

**Training Books: \$55** 

Costs associated with Basic theory, and or any training event, will be based on the number attending, venue costs and travel costs of Trainer's and Assessor's. The number of trainer's / Assessors will be determined by the club's training officer.

#### **Club Trainer's**

Advisor's: Shaun Lawson, Paul Tabone, Merv Tucker,

Advisor / Trainer's: Ian Manglesdorf, Paul West

Advisor / Trainer / Assessor's: Max Almond, Ken Bradey, Tim

Byrne, Mark Curtis, Layne Holberton, Jeff Morgan, Christian

Whamond

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Replacement		\$6.00
Sand Flags	*	\$2.50
Tyre Plugs		\$7.50

Please see a committee member for the above purchases.

Bucket Hats (including logo embroidered on & GST)	\$13.00
NEW ITEM	220.00
Caps (including logo embroidered on)	\$13.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)	
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$26.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)	
Rugby Tops	\$52.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)	
Windcheaters (fleecy lined)	\$40.00

If you require clothing please speak to a committee member.

## **ITEMS FOR LOAN**

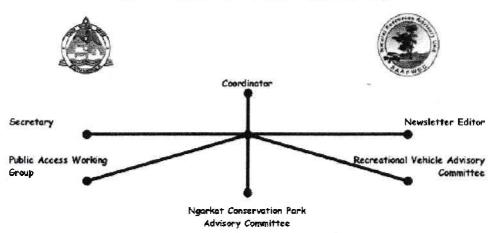
Books (hopefully in the future) Club Banner	Recovery Kit Tirfor Winch	
Club Flag GPS Promotional Videos	Puncture Repair Kit * First Aid Kit *	
Maps * Please replace used items	4 x Lightweight Shelters with	sides.

Please see Merv Tucker for any items you wish to loan Ph 8278 1414.

## THE NRAU

Many members of the SAAFWDC apparently do not know what the NRAU is, or what its several components are – this diagram may help

## Natural Resources Advisory Unit makeup



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## **Trading Mart**

## FOR SALE:

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- Brand new Ralley 4000 spot lights Sped Beam only to club of members only \$195 each
- 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

Spare wheel (tyre and rim) plus two spare tyres not on rims for a Holden Jackaroo 3.1L Deisel 1996 Model for sale. Maybe also a few extra spare parts. If interested contact Marianne Sag. Phone 82965807 or email mariannei@aapt.net for further details or to arrange inspection.

Space for your items here, just get the details to Richard.

As there is space here I will give a plug for a free site — check out

www.freecycle.org

This site is to get rid of stuff you don't want, and isn't worth selling. The concept is that someone might be able to use it, so it saves it going to landfill. I have seen everything on offer from extra mulch (mine) to a king size bed. Have scored some bar stools, a shortwave radio, and even firewood for a camping trip.

It operates via a vahoo email group based on the area you are in. The only rule is everything has to be free and not for sale.

Cheers, Richard

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# **Your Committee**

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