



Rangers' Review

Volume 10 No.8

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

February 2005

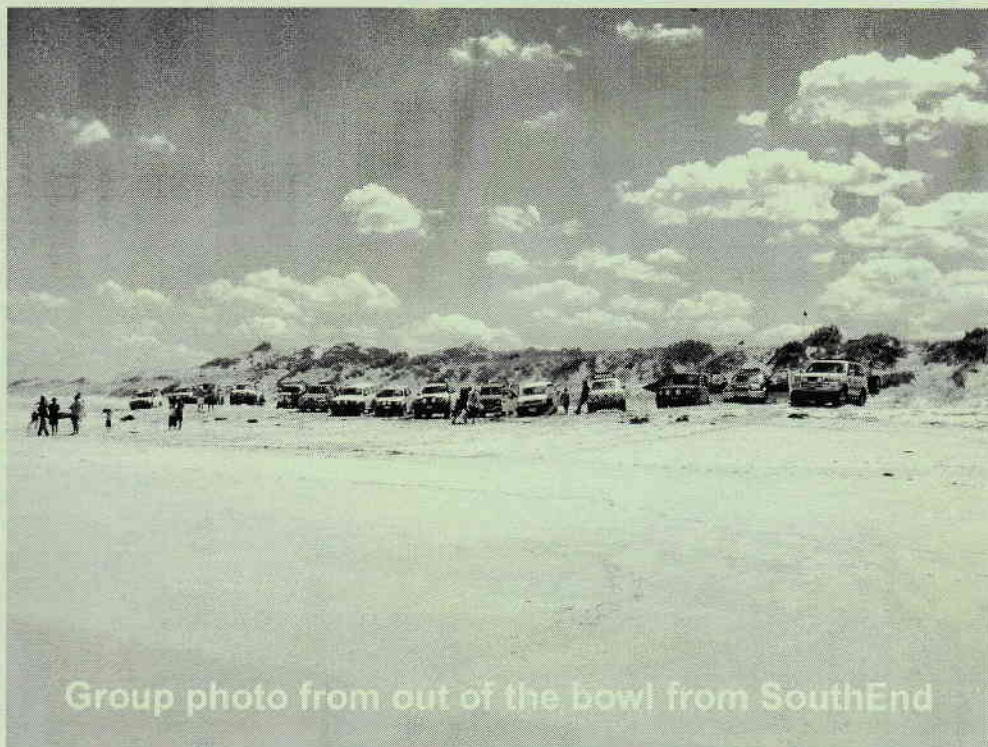


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"President Report"



Hi all again,

2005 is now upon us, and I look forward to the year ahead.

For those people that didn't go to Beachport on the Australia day holiday, you missed out on a great trip, thanks must go out to Layne and Julie Holberton for carrying on the tradition of MLR's annual weekend at Beachport. I believe that there will be a trip report coming so those who didn't make the trip can read about the great time had by all. Next year has already been booked for the weekend prior to Australia day, so this means we can have an extra day at Beachport if so desired.

Thanks must go out to Jeff Morgan for organising the GPS "Treasure Hunt", most kids had a great time, even though some got scratches on their legs looking for the little goodie boxes that Jeff had hidden earlier in the day. Most of the kids had no trouble finding the little treasure chests, all except the biggest kid of them all, Merv - better luck next time Merv.

I must just remind everyone that we are a club that encourages members with families. I know what its like when you've been out all day driving, and sometimes getting bogged in your four wheel drive and when you get back to camp and relax for the evening sometimes its great to have a drink and a laugh, but if there are people and children trying to catch some zzz 's,

please respect this and try and keep the noise level down. There is nothing worse than trying to get to sleep and your bugged, but you can 't due to some inconsiderate people.

Jeff and Layne did some training at Geranium and I look forward to reading the report on how this all went. I have made some arrangements for the club to go up to Morgan for a weekend fun day. Even though this is not a trip purposely for training, we will be able to help some people out and sign some more books. I was thinking along the lines of having our partners have a drive in the quarry during the weekend. Its a good chance for the person who normally sits in the passenger seat to have a chance of driving the family vehicle over some rocks and down some hills.

I would like everyone to have a think about what they can put into the club for 2005, if you don't want to be part of the committee, then hold a club trip or maybe make some suggestions for social get togethers. We are always looking for new and interesting places to visit, even if we've been there before, some people may want to re- visit.

In a few months, we will be holding our annual general meeting. At this stage I believe that most positions on the committee will be available. It would be nice to see some new faces up the front for a while, and let the members that have been on the committee now for many years take a step back and enjoy the club for a while.

Look forward to seeing you all soon, keep safe...:

Christian Whamond
(Toolman)

How To Join The Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club Yahoo Group.

The simplest way to start is to send an email to...

mlr_4wd-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

I would strongly advise you to join Yahoo! as the group also provides other functionality that can only be accessed after you have logged in to Yahoo! The two simplest functions the group's home page (http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/mlr_4wd/) provides are a calendar and photo albums. There are other goodies and we will use them appropriately in due course. If there are any further questions I can answer them for you via email (langy67@tpg.com.au).

Langy! (Group Owner/Moderator)



Future Meeting Dates

April	11 th
May	9 th (AGM)
June	13 th
July	11 th
August	8 th
September	12 th
October	10 th

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SOCIAL SCENE

BEACHPORT 2005

Another enjoyable time was had at Beachport this year. As Australia Day was on a Wednesday this year most people stayed at Beachport for a longer period. The first family arrived on Wednesday 19th January and then people stayed until the last weekend in January.

A few families had arrived and set up camp by the morning of Saturday 22nd so it was time for a drive along the beach and a play in the sand hills. By night fall it was time to rug up as the temperature dropped sharply.

On Sunday there were two departure times for Robe so it was time to get organised and off to Robe via the bitumen and back to Beachport via the sand. There was another cool evening so some wood had to be collected tomorrow for a fire the following night.

Monday was a free day to do what ever you wanted. Some went to the Buggy Club and played in the sand, others drove to Mt Burr and the surrounding areas. Mt Gambia, Tantanoola and Millicent were also visited. A fire was lit this evening and some good stories were told.

On Tuesday we drove, via the sand, down do Carpenter Rocks via Southend. In the evening a large group went to the local Hotel for dinner.

Wednesday was the day most families packed up and headed back to Adelaide. A small group drove from Robe to 42 Mile Crossing via the beach and the ever changing sand.

MID YEAR DINNER 2005

Each year we have a Mid Year Dinner in either July or August. If you know of a venue you would like to recommend for this occasion please let

(Continued on page 7)

Linda, Jo, Julie or Lyn know in the near future so we can arrange this event.

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!

Social Committee

Editors Note: "New Magazine Editor wanted"

I will not be taking on the Club Magazine again this year after the AGM so if there is anyone interested in taking on this roll please contact me or Christian. You don't have to be a PC guru as long as you have a PC we should be able to set you up with the appropriate tools and give you an easy transition into the roll over 2 or 3 magazine editions.

Thank you: Mark Curtis

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Trip Report – Geranium Sand Driving Training, January 8th & 9th, 2005

Well, we were told to meet at the usual place... the Shell roadhouse at Tailem Bend. But some thought it was at 7am & others thought sometime after 8am! So some of us had time for the standard Sth Ausy breakfast a Farmers Union Iced Coffee... and a chat!

Peter Langshaw (Langy) must have been keen. He and family had returned from a few weeks in Tasmania the night before... so it was a quick turn-around... but the family must have opted for a rest, as he rolled up by himself! Jeff Morgan and Layne Holberton arrived to lead the convoy down to Geranium. The rest of us were Langy, Darren Callaway, Paul Tabone, Geoff Edwards, Rick Louff, Bill & Heather Doulton and kids and myself... Peter van den Broeke.

Nice quick time made in convoy down to reach Darado Downs around 10.30am. Time to set up camp, admire Geoff's new roof top camper where he'd be safe from the wild animals (it's made in South Africa!), and have a meeting to talk over how the training and assessments worked.

Then up with the sand flags and down with the tyre pressures & off on a pre lunch look around the property, led by our trainers, Jeff & Layne. No worries so far, but some of those tracks straight up the sides of the ridge look a bit daunting!

After lunch it's off and into it. Jeff & Layne find us "nice" hills to contemplate, give us advice on tyre pressures, gear selections, track to take, what speed to attack ... then go on up themselves to show it can be done! Next volunteer?

Well, we got to try any number of climbs of varying difficulty. It's surprising just what these vehicles will do. I don't think anyone made every attempt on the first go, but most were determined enough of to push their vehicle and themselves everywhere. My Suzuki had to be retrieved a couple of times, but mostly it was just a case of a stall stop and going through the procedure to reverse back down & line up for another go! The Suzy refused to do a couple of the more extreme runs, but everyone else tried them all. But not everyone succeeded on them all!

This made for good opportunities for snatch strap retrieval training and

assessment exercises.

A couple of these were quite technical.

One involved two retrieval vehicles trying to haul Geoff up the last 5m of hill around a bend. Straps don't follow corners, and the short cut wasn't doing his front suspension much good. But the experts did it!

Another situation had Rick side on to the hill and in danger of rolling.

On through the rest of Saturday & Sunday morning Jeff & Layne tirelessly put individual people through various training exercises and assessments on controlled stops & restarts on downhill and uphill situations, driving up or down inclines, driving through sandy terrain or winding bush tracks, changing wheels, using bull bags and high lift jacks to lift a vehicle and of course the recovery of vehicles using snatch straps.

The weather was great. The camping site quite civilized with trees and shade to camp under, toilet & running water, and a big shelter shed to do whatever in if needed. We even were allowed a fire, so the evening chat around the campfire, that all camping needs, could be had. The kids played with fire & searched the skies for satellites!

All in all, a very good weekend of training and discovery!

Thanks very much to Jeff Morgan and Layne Holberton for their wonderful efforts and time.

Peter van den Broeke



Robe to Beachport via sand tracks and beach

23 January 2005

2nd group - Leader: Layne and Julie Holberton

Left camp at 10am and drove to Robe for a bit of a look at the shops and some lunch.

Robe is a historical place with its picturesque bay screened with huge pines and quaint antique shops. Left Robe at 12.20 with seven vehicles. Half way through the track noticed a vehicle counter that you find on a suburban street.

Came to the first big sand dune to master. On the second try we got up then proceeded to watch the others. Some made it first go whilst others didn't. A couple used the easy track. But overall it was fun and good practice for what was to come. 2.30pm we came to Nora Creina an interesting little beach community. We had a 15 minute stop here on the beach.

Then traveled along the beach past the rocks with couple's sun baking at natural. At 3.45pm hit the dunes for some fun driving. The young kids had a play while the big kids drove around the sand, and up and down hills. Peter got stuck on the top and was pulled out by Rick.

4.30pm back on the trail. Our Disco had to have four goes to get up off the beach, which seemed to be the average attempt as the entry/exit track was quite steep with a sharp turn at the top - not bad for beginners. Back at camp by 5.30pm, in time for the 6pm happy hour.

Happy hour consisted of nibbles, drinks, good company and plenty of stories about the day and other trips.

Great day and enjoyed by all.

Written by Sharon and Anthony Tavelli

Robe to Beachport Trip Report

Sunday 23 January, 2005

Trip Leader:

Christian (Toolman) with the help of Kyle (Hellboy, formerly Sidchrome)

Group A members:

Trevor & son Brendan, Gavin & Sharon, Glen, Julie & son Daniel, Peter & Pam, David, Brigitta & children Chloe & Brady, Craig, Christine (driver) & children Nicholas & Christopher, Paul & Bev, Paul, Annette & children Jordan & Kyah and Matt.

We left “Southern Ocean” Caravan Park, Beachport at 9am and headed to Robe on the bitumen.

While Christian checked out the track to the beach we let our tyres down, bought out the local bakery, and took in the magnificent view of picturesque Guichen Bay and Long Beach.

We had our ‘spies’ in place – namely the junior ‘co-pilots’ in the lead vehicles! When Christian was having a few difficulties traversing a sand hill leading to the beach ‘Hellboy’ was giving us a running commentary.

Brendan also did an excellent job of keeping us informed on the rare occasions they were immobilised.

When ‘Crooza’ attempted the same track and reversed onto a rocky outcrop, we appreciated Christian’s problem. However a quick snatch and a bit of ingenuity soon had him free.

Fishermen on the beach were disappointed – no fish today, not even a bite.

The scenery along this stretch of beaches between Robe and Nora Creina is a real landscape picture. Today the water was turquoise and blue and the giant breakers just kept rolling in – some of them breaking over hidden offshore reefs. This is a sight that people in 2wd vehicles may never see. It just makes our trips so worthwhile.

(Continued on page 20)

February 2005

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

- I) DTU Training Committee Meeting – Cavan 07:30 pm
- II) DTU General Meeting—Cavan 07:30 pm
- III) Association General Meeting - Cavan 07:30 pm
- IV) Club Training / Fun Weekend—Morgan

March 2005

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

- I) Association AGM – Yankalilla
- II) DTU Training Committee Meeting – Cavan 07:30 pm
- III) SAAFWDC Clean Up event
- IV) DTU General Meeting – Cavan 07:30pm

April 2005

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

I) Club Meeting

SH) School Holidays

AZ) Anzac Weekend

II) DTU Training Committee Meeting – Cavan 07:30 pm

III) DTU General Meeting – Cavan 07:30pm

May 2005

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

- I) Club Meeting
- II) 002 & 003 Skills Update—Warren Gorge
- III) DTU Training Committee Meeting & AGM – Cavan 07:30 pm
- IV) DTU General Meeting – Cavan 07:30pm
- V) Training Small Groups Course—DTU

Upcoming Trips

FEBRUARY 2005: Morgan Trip. 19th & 20th

Morgan Caravan Park next to the river (just by the Ferry) has been booked for 25 sites for a club trip, to have a drive in the quarry and some river activities. Training to individuals will be available but prior arrangements will need to be made. This is a good opportunity for partners to have a drive of the family 4wd in a safe and controlled environment.

MARCH 2004: Murray River Fishing & Camping

Details yet to be confirmed

12/13 MARCH

JULY 2004: Anne Beadell Highway: 9th to 24th July

Will head west from Coober Pedy along Anne Beadell Highway. At this stage return route unknown, may head north and back through the Great Australian Desert or south and back along the Nullarbor. Remote Bush travelling and few refuelling places (1350km 's without fuel or water), so vehicles must be prepared to suit conditions. Persons interested MUST be prepared to commit to trip early next year as permits need to be organised.

Mark Curtis: Trip limit 8-10 vehicles — enquiry has made about camper trailers on trip, under consideration and investigation



Courses Four Wheel Drive

MLR Club Training

Contact: Jeff Morgan
Home: 8381 5404
Mobile: 0410 665 019

Training / Fun Weekend
19th & 20th February 2005
Morgan

Skills Update 002 & 003
7th & 8th May 2005
Warren Gorge

Skills Update 002 & 003
30th & 31st June 2005
Kulpto

Training Small Groups
4th & 5th June 2005
Unknown



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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
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$26.00
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	
Caps (including logo embroidered on)	\$13.00
NEW ITEM	
Bucket Hats (including logo embroidered on & GST)	\$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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debt reduction, renovation and pre purchase approval**

(Continued from page 11)

Our journey took us through a mixture of beach and rocky outcrop areas. The recent rains had put moisture in the sand, so the going was reasonably easy.

Lunch was in a beautiful bay near Nora Creina where everybody enjoyed a paddle and a chance to get away from the marchflies.

We left the beach for a while for an inland drive through Nora Creina and then onto 'Stinky Beach,' which was quite pleasant for a change. Then came the 'nudist beach' with a few 'specimens' showing their 'wares.' Not a pretty sight!

We eventually arrived in the Buggy Club area where there were HUGE sand dunes. There was a bit of excitement when Chris started sliding in a sand bowl but she did well and kept going. Paul (Casper) was next and also took a slide, however he was able to reverse back and drive through the bottom of the sand bowl, as did everyone else following!

There was traffic waiting on the other side, but apparently not as much traffic as in previous years due to the mid week Public Holiday instead of a long weekend.

After the Buggy Club, a section of beach got quite soft, so we followed an inland track through an old ocean floor until we reached Big Red, a sand dune with various grades of steepness and difficulty.

Matt and Gavin conquered it, while others took advantage of the break to have a cuppa and discuss the mishaps at this site over the years. This was a popular location, as lots of other groups were doing the same or passing through.

We arrived back at camp around 4pm.

Thank you Christian and thank you kids for your help on the radio. It was a fun day with no major delays, and top marks to Chris who drove the whole trip. I believe Craig had to prise her out of the driver's seat for the Carpenter's Rocks Trip!

Bev and Paul
'Casper'

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Beachport to Carpenters Rocks 31 Jan.

With Lane as Trip Leader, our convoy of 16 vehicles departed at 10am on time.

The first 12 km's along the beach was relatively easy going.

On heading of the beach and into the dunes Lane took a wrong turn and was quick to point the blame at Merv for playing with his GPS!

After morning tea and the weather heating up it wasn't long until we found a nice challenging dune. All vehicles managed to make it up with some needing a little assistance which was provided by Anthony. Except for I am sorry to say without mentioning any names one Nissan which did have to take the chicken track.

After some more great driving and coastal views it was time for a lunch break on the beach. With lunch out of the way our Trip Leader for the day lead us to the big dipper for a play.

Lane finally managed on his second attempt and having lowered his tyre pressures even more to make it to the top and with some patience all the way over. Then to show how it can be done straight over the top Rick Luff gave his 80 Series plenty of right foot and made it look easy after 6 vehicles in all had tried.

It wasn't too long after this that we were back on the beach and being guided through a very soft stretch that Lane did have a bit of trouble with. But with the experience on hand all vehicles made it through safely.

Our convoy had made it to Carpenters Rocks without too many mishaps or recoveries. We all then enjoyed ice creams while pumping up our tyres for the drive back to Beachport. The day and weekend was topped of by a meal at the Beachport pub which with thanks from all was organised by Judy Luff.

A great day and weekend was had by all. For those who haven't been on this club trip this is one not to miss out on next year as I believe we will have an extra day so book your holidays in early.

Paul Tabone



Boarding Beach



Helping Hand

Tyre Pressures by Geoff Morgan

Dear members after hearing about the tyre footprint length recommended for the Simpson Desert trip I carried out a test that may be a useful table for club members.

I use to run about 18psi on most sand driving, since this experiment while on the Beachport trip, I found using 14(R) & 12(F) made the vehicle travel a lot easier.

The foot print length provides the actual contact length of the tyre with the sand, understanding approximately what this length is, proportionally to tyre pressure is very handy and easier to make a decision on tyre pressure dependant on the terrain.

The Simpson trip under taken by the Club in June were advised that a 300mm foot print was the ideal length for a 100 Series Toyota.

Car:- Toyota Prado 3.0L TD – based on road tyres 265/70R16 Dunlop Grandtrek
Rear Axle Weight approx 1500kgs

Front	Front	Rear	Rear
PSI	Foot Print mm	PSI	Foot Print mm
36	160	36	195
22	190	22	245
20	200	20	270
18	210	18	290
16	230	16	300
14	250	14	315
12	265	12	335
10	280	10	385
8	325	8	430

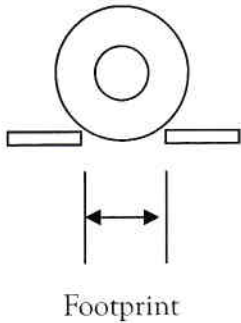
How to measure footprint:

Park your vehicle on flat ground. Using either 2 sheets of paper or 2 rulers, place on ground one in front and one at rear of tyre, leave about one third sticking out to the side.

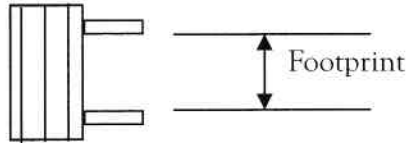
Now slide both in until they touch the tyre, keeping them parallel, now measure the distance between the two and that is your **tyre's footprint**.

Keep repeating at different tyre pressures until to get down to your desires minimum pressure.
Remember below about 10-12 psi and do you run the risk of the tyre coming off the rim and are pressures generally used in emergency situations only.

Side View



Top View



Merv –Tyre pressures in this situation will most probably not help, keep digging

MILLICENT DAY TRIP BY JASMINE HARDING

Heading for a scorcher, grader suggested we go to the swimming lake at Millicent. So we had breakfast, cut our lunch and headed off trying to beat the morning heat.

Four vehicles traveled in convoy at 10 am to Millicent. There was Rocky, Bullwinkle, Mr fix it and Grada. We all tried to find a shady spot to park the car, to spend the day by the cool breeze at the swimming lake. Grada decided we should all shift our cars closer to where we would be sitting, unbeknown to us it was just a ploy for him to get the coolest spot.

We found the shadiest tree, plonked our stuff, smothered ourselves in sunscreen and headed out to the water. The pontoon in the middle of the lake was a big hit, with bombing and diving to cool us down. The water was cool and clear as a bell, with all the exercise the oldies were having they were ready for lunch.

So it was decided hamburgers and chips all round (except for Bullwinkle who ate carrot, celery and cucumber for lunch) some were eating healthily while others were having cholesterol fixes.

Just then Stalker arrived from visiting the caves and joined us for lunch and a swim. From now on they will be known to us as Powertool (personal joke).

So the afternoon was taken up by lunch, ice-cream, lounging around and some swimming. At 3pm we started to head back to Beachport. Once again this proving there are other things to do besides 4 wheel driving.

The kids had a wonderful time and it turned out to be a fabulous family day. I think the oldies enjoyed themselves as well.

Our day ended reminiscing over lots of beer and champagne.

from a child's point of view.

Jasmine Harding 13 (Bullwinkle)

Trading Mart

FOR SALE:

- 5 of 265x16 Bridgestone all terrains....3x50%...1x100%...1 has slight side wall split....\$250
 - GQ metal Draw System Brand new ...could be modified to suit GU 100 or 80 series....\$1190 rrp sell to club member \$1100
 - Brand new Ralley 4000 spot lights Sped Beam only to club 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

- Bushboy 54 litre Fridge/Freezer (includes 3 internal baskets), 240 volt transformer with 2 x 12 volt outlets, Canvas cover, Good ,strong steel fridge. Works perfectly but won't fit my new camper.

New price about \$1800. Sell \$950

Contact Rick Luff 83704774(h), 0411426913(m), 8161 6143(w)

4 Disco Rims

- 4 , 16 x 8 SE (2000) Alloy Rims excellent condition Tyres are Michelins XPC about 10k left \$800 ono
- Phone 0401 700 715

Contact Anthony.Tavelli@gfmb.com.au

4WD for sale

1999 Toyota Landcruiser, Burgundy. 100,000kms 5 spd Diesel many extras \$39,000. Angie 0411 702 742

Your Committee

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