



Rangers' Review

Volume 11 No.11

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

November 2005



Things get interesting for Peter on the recent Rocklea trip

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"President Report"



It has been a quiet month in terms of trips and the like, with only the one trip to Rockleigh, but the major event of the calendar this past month was the annual 4WD Show.

The MLR 'stand' was ably organised and (almost) constantly 'manned' by the affable Dave Goodenough along with a team of happy and helpful volunteers. Our extra thanks go to Paul Tabone for the loan of an Adventure Camper to use as our base for the weekend. And, while our display was not as lavish as some, it provided us with many great opportunities to spruكة the virtues of the club.

So what are the virtues I have mentioned? Firstly, we are a club that welcomes anyone. You don't have to own a particular vehicle or feel as though you don't fit the club's demographic. We demonstrated this by the diverse range of people helping out on the stall and also by the DVDs and photos we were showing. Secondly, we are a family friendly club. This really goes hand in hand with the fact that we are not 'uni-demographic' and generally understand that 4WDing is as much about the people as it is the driving. Finally we tried to show the people that we are realistic. We didn't pull any punches about the number of trips we run, their length or the locations we regularly go to. This clearly attracted a number of people, some of whom we are welcoming along tonight for their first meeting.

The other major benefit of the show was the opportunity to talk to other clubs. Our stall was between the Adelaide Jeep Club and the Wattle Ranges Club, from Beachport. We had great opportunities to chat to them at length about their clubs and what we can begin to do to foster stronger inter-club ties. I know that those of us who went to

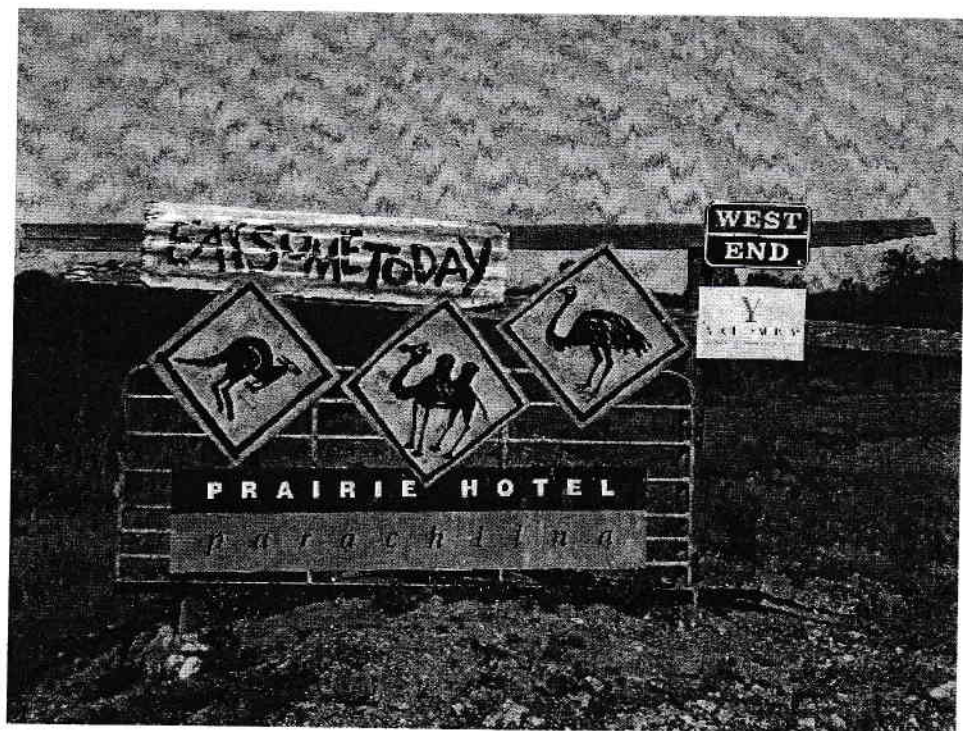
Whyalla this year were encouraging the Beachport crew to consider going to next year's event with an eye to future events being held in their neck of the woods.

Let me encourage you all to consider volunteering to help with this event next year and, as I have been saying throughout my time as President, to do what you can for the club.

I look forward to seeing you all again next month at the Christmas Party. It should be a great time for everyone. And just for your information: No, I don't do Santa!

All the best.

Langy!



How long since you have been to the Flinders? Getting a bit warm now but a week long trip for next year could be a winner—Richard



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Rockleigh Trip Report 22nd and 23rd October

Our Oktoberfest of trips was rounded out nicely by a day trip to Rockleigh, which lies this side of Murray Bridge and that side of the freeway.

22 vehicles met near Mt Barker and headed off with promises of a dirty half-weekend. The rain of the previous few days augured well and we arrived within the hour. After airing down we set off following Peter Ellery to wander about this most picturesque property.

Tall grass obscured a multitude of rocks which we were skilled enough to find using our diffs. Our wanderings led us to a "V" shaped creek that, despite our better judgment we attempted to cross. Several vehicles (hereafter known as the smarty pants) made it through without trouble. The rest of us thought that although we could do the same, it was our responsibility to have winch recoveries demonstrated. Just to be thorough, we arranged for a number of these demonstrations.

After a tour of the local dirt roads, most of which had the same name, we stopped at the Murray Bridge 4WD Club Test Tract. This consisted of dry creek crossings and several rocky climbs. Just as well that we still had our diffs with us otherwise some of those rocks would have remained undiscovered. Being all covered in Salvation Jane meant for slow going, as you couldn't see the rocks until the tyres (or something else) found them.

After lunch we headed for Annie's Lane. Benign in the beginning, it quickly changed to putrid, greasy mud. The fact that it was listing 30 degrees to starboard and positioned adjacent to, and well above, a rocky creek bed simply added to the excitement. Four cars made it through, mostly due to electric winches and a newly found religious faith (eg Oh, God I'm gonna roll!!). As it would have taken about twelve days to get the rest through they wisely turned around and went off to play somewhere else, in the full knowledge that those of us who had made it thus far would have no trouble with the rest of the track.

The grassy field successfully camouflaged two feet of stinking porridge, in which we played (got well and truly bogged) for the next hour or so. If too much mud is not enough, then this is the place for you. The grooves that we made looked like the freeway tunnels without their roofs, so some track maintenance was required before we left.

Back to base to regroup then some went off to explore again. We left about that time, watching the mob snake over hill and dale as we headed for the freeway.

Four vehicles were there on the Sunday however rain stopped play.

A big thank you goes to Dave Goodenough for organizing the trip, Peter Ellery as the "you'll do" co-trip leader and of course the owners of the property.

Rick Luff



A few people decided to camp out for the night, this would have been a pleasant spot to stay.

Photos thanks to Hubert Orbons.

Sowaddyaneedtogoooffroad

We've all read the mags and seen the supertankers of four wheel driving. Big wheels, lots of spotties, six inch lifts and more electronics than a 747. Does all of this really help? Well, yes. Is it essential for fun in the scrub? Hell no!

Well if all the bells and whistles are not essential (although loads of fun) what do we really need. Here is my list, in order of priority as to where you might spend your hard earned dollars. Other may put these in a different order or add or subtract some items, but that's the nature of our pastime – horses for courses.

1. Buy a 4WD in as good a condition as possible. Toorak Tractors and Burnside Busses are ideal as the roughest road they have encountered is driving over the bark chips onto the front lawn. Which 4WD do you choose? Surely a Toyota or Nissan will only be suitable. *(them's fighting words Rick ☺ — RJ)*

Despite our loyalties or biases the best vehicle to buy is the one that meets your needs and budget. Let's face it, our busses are used mostly for exactly that, so all round needs must be considered. Just about any brand will do, so long as you don't expect a Lada Niva to snatch a Landcruiser buried to its axels out of soft wet sand. (Actually they can do that, but I'm still trying to live that one down).

2. What's next? Regular good quality servicing. Put in the best oil you can. If it doesn't cost at least five dollars a litre it's either crap or you've lifted it from a mate. Oh, and change the filter each time. Get the car greased every 5,000km. If all this sounds expensive, check the price of an engine rebuild. Want to save money, learn about your vehicle and have fun at the same time? Then do it yourself. It's really quite easy.

Unless you're a dab hand with the spanners you could leave things like brakes and other stuff to your mechanic. By the way, the three things a family must have is a good Doctor, a good Hairdresser and a good Mechanic (sort out the order yourselves).

3. Buy a shovel. (\$6.99 at Cheap as Chips)

4. Buy a half-decent air compressor (\$100 to \$200)

5. Buy a good quality snatch strap and two rated bow shackles. (under \$100 for the lot).

6. Buy a UHF radio (\$50 to \$500).
7. Fit a cargo barrier (upwards of \$500).
8. Join a 4WD club. (a bargain for what you get).
9. Fit suitable tyres. Light truck casings are essential and as far as we goes, if they're barely legal on the road they have no business off it.
10. A sense of adventure. That torrential rainstorm as you were trying to set up camp will become a great story around the next campfire.
11. A second battery.

The list goes on. I haven't mentioned fridges, camper trailers, diff lock or winches because they aren't essential to having a great time. 4WD is a hole in the road that you pour money into therefore there is never an end to it. Just remember to stop before you exceed your GVM. "What's GVM", I hear you ask. Perhaps one of you could make that the topic for a magazine article.

Rick Luff



Another area some people have found is near Lonsdale. Some of this area is private but other parts have no signs or gates,

SOCIAL SCENE

**DECEMBER MEETING & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – Monday 12th
December 2005**

Christmas is fast approaching. Father Christmas will be coming to our December Club Meeting (as he did last year). The evening will begin at about 6.30pm with a BBQ and salads. This year we ask that each family make a gold coin donation towards the cost of the BBQ & salads.

There will also be some entertainment to keep the children amused and there is a playground and the oval for them to play on.

The meeting will commence at about 7.45pm with a coffee and sweets break in the middle. As done in previous years could each family please bring a small plate of sweets to share, there will be a table available for these to be put on.

Don't forget it is up to you to provide a present for your child/ren or grandchild/ren which Father Christmas will give them. Please wrap and name your presents, maximum cost about \$20.00. The presents can be given to Lyn, Jo or Julie at the November meeting or before 7.00pm at the December meeting and they will discreetly put them in Santa's sack.

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



November 2005

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

CM Club Meeting

RM Rocklea (was Mt Crawford but cancelled due to local forest restrictions)

December 2005

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

CM Club Meeting—Christmas Party—6.30pm start, remember gold coin donation for the BBQ please!

A Ardrossan camping and crabbing trip—contact Paul Tabone

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CAMP COOKING RECIPES

CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS (supplied by Jo Reed)

1KG Boneless Chicken Tenders, 4 carrots, 1 large onion, 6 stalks of celery, 6 medium sized potatoes, 1 tsp oil, 2 cans cream of chicken soup

Equipment, Dutch oven, Spoon for stirring and serving , knife

Instructions. Cut up chicken, carrots, onions and celery.

Place Dutch oven on coals, add oil then chicken. Cook until slightly brown. Add onion, celery, carrots and potatoes and cup of water. Cover and simmer 15minutes. Add 2 can cream of chicken soup and water to the consistency of gravy. Cover and simmer an additional 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add dumplings to top of mixture, cook covered 20-25 minutes.

Uncover stew, drop heaped tablespoons Herb Dumpling mixture, 2cm apart, on top. Cover stew, simmer about 15 min. or until dumplings are cooks through.

Herb dumplings.

1cup SR flour, 40g cold butter chopped, 1tblespn finely chopped fresh parsley, 1tbspn finely chopped fresh thyme, 1egg beaten, 60ml skim milk,

Place flour in medium bow, rub in butter, Stir in herbs, egg and enough milk to mix to a soft, sticky dough.

BREAD PUDDING (supplied by Marianne Sag)

1 loaf bread, 2 litres milk, 2 eggs, 4oz butter or marg. Half cup sugar, 3tblsp cocoa, 3tblsp. Mix spice, 1kg. mixed dried fruit.

Break up bread, soak in milk till soggy. Add sugar, marg and eggs and squash with spoon till mushy. Add cocoa, spice and fruit, mix well. Bake in greased camp oven (30Min. – 1 hour)

Lyn Morgan

Upcoming Trips

Ardrossan camping & crabbing weekend. This is a bush camp with no facilities for the 3rd and 4th of December. Contact Paul Tabone for more details on this one.

January long weekend—the annual expedition to Beachport will be taking place again . Even though not a long weekend this year with Australia Day falling on the Wednesday it appears some people will be staying the full week and others a few days. More will be said at this month's meeting I am sure.

☆ This section is looking a bit light on, come on surely somebody must have something planned they can make into a club trip. While it is now into fire ban season surely that doesn't keep everyone inside. Remember this doesn't have to be a hard core trip, even a social weekend will do.

Border Track Closure notice

☆ The Ngarkat Conservation Park Management Plan stipulates ☆
 ☆ that for public safety, the Border Track will be closed from the ☆
 ☆ 1st of November till the 31st of March each year. This is the ☆
 ☆ northern one way section from Pinnaroo down towards ☆
 ☆ Bordertown. ☆
 ☆ ☆

For further information, please contact the Mallee District Office on (61 8) 8576 3690. We thank you for your cooperation.



MLR Club Training

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

Certificate 4 Course: 22-23 October -
Advisor Course: 12-13 November

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 Trainers

Advisor's: Shaun Lawson, Paul Tabone.
Trainer's: Ian Manglesdorf, Paul West, Tim Byrne
Assessor's: Max Arlmond, Ken Bradey, Mark Curtis, Layne Holberton, Jeff Morgan, Christian Whamond, Ricky Esser.



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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 (fleece 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 <i>(including logo embroidered on)</i>	\$13.00
NEW ITEM	
Bucket Hats <i>(including logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	\$13.00

If you require clothing please speak to a committee member.

ITEMS FOR LOAN

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

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A few people had fun at Rocklea!

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- 1 Grand Trek 265/65/17 radial tyre, factory Prado OEM tyre brand new. \$150.00
- Set of 3 Cooper ST 265/70 17 tyres, about 80% tread \$450.00
- 30 second tent, small size only 1.2m high used 3 times \$300.00
- Macpac Minaret two person hiking tent, alloy poles total weight 2.5Kg \$400.00 in excellent condition

Contact Peter Ellery, 0413 023 309

Optima D31M Deep Cycle Marine Battery, 900 A cranking, 75Ah capacity. Same size as an N70, 300mm long and a good winning battery. Nearly new and asking \$200 (normal price is close to \$500).

Contact Tim on 0438 330 308.

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