



Rangers' Review

Volume 11 No.1

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

SEPT

July 2005



The vehicles from the Wanna Linga Longer trip

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"President Report"



As I ruminated over a topic for my President's Report one word kept springing to mind: Diversity.

MLR members are a diverse group. Our vocational pursuits see us in many diverse roles: small business owners, corporate suits and educators. Our life experiences are clearly diverse as we are all at different stages of our working lives and also our relational lives. Not that we share all our life and workplace experiences at MLR meetings, trips and social gatherings but these things make us who we are and therefore they make the club what it is.

From a more 4WD focussed point of view, MLR members bring a diversity of experience and experiences to the club. When I joined the club a little over 18 months ago, I had very little 4WD experience, and while it showed, I have been on a number of trips (as have other novices) and I have gained both confidence and experience. Therefore I would like publicly acknowledge the fantastic group of people involved in DTU run training who are so ably led by Jeff Morgan. Thanks to all of you for your hard work in helping so many of us.

Our 4WD experiences are also quite diverse. Many have tackled the 'big trips' through the our deserts, or the Victorian High-Country or Cape York, others of us are limited by family and/or work to shorter trips not too far from Adelaide. We all have our favourite (and

not so favourite) places to go, and I still believe the challenge before us is to continue to share these as club trips.

So to that end, during the school holidays I went for a recon trip. I packed my 11 year-old (who served as official laptop holder) into the car and drove through Peake and almost to Lameroo before heading down through Baan Hill to the Western Tracks of the Ngarkat Conservation Parks. We had a great day enjoying the diverse Mallee landscape and we even spotted plenty of emus and kangaroos as well as four emu chicks, an echidna and an eagle. This will become a day trip sometime in the future.

Let me leave you with this warning and (as usual) a challenge. While this diversity in our club and our country can be positive, it is possible that this can also be divisive. A careless word or an off-hand comment can unintentionally cause a group the size of MLR to fragment into warring factions who suddenly become intent on building up empires rather than the whole club. I want to underline the Club Executive's intention to continue to strengthen our 'Core Business'. That is: training, trips and social activities. It is not the Executive's intention to change this.

My challenge to you is this: How can we all ensure the club moves together as a whole? How do you ensure this can happen individually? This is a challenge as we are clearly a diverse group of people BUT lets not forget that we do come together under the common umbrella of 4WD here at The Mount Lofty Rangers.

All the best to you and yours,

Langy!



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WANNALINGALONGA

AREA TRIP

Saturday 13 August 2005

Originally named the "Burra Day Trip" the Wannalingalonga Area Trip turned from a Day trip to a weekend at Robertstown.

We met at 8am at Globe Derby Park. We, being X-Ray (-2 + 1), The Buckets (- 2 + 1), River Rats (Us), The Tourists (-3), The Woodys (formerly Stalker), Shorty, 4 Quarters (The Birthday Boy), and Sherpa (-1).

Departure was 8.15am and Mossiah had given Sherpa a quiz for us all to do along the way. 72 questions and the time flew by. They were observation questions that we were to mark at lunchtime.

We met Lefty at Robertstown and carried on to Wannalingalonga. A lovely home away from home. We enjoyed morning tea there; the people who were staying unloaded camper trailers and then set off via the 4WD track. Mossiah in the Zulu vehicle, and Mallee Boy joined the convoy. Tuckers Track gave us some glorious views over the Robertstown area and we were very impressed with their parcel of heaven. The bird life was prolific and we saw several Wedge Tailed Eagles in this area. The blue sky and cool breeze made for a wonderful recipe for a day trip.

The area was really green but the tracks were dusty. There had been 6 points of rain the previous week in the Robertstown area. Out of Wannalingalonga we headed on to a little black top, turned right and our fearless leader said "Let the fun begin". Fun wasn't what I would call what happened next, but it didn't spoil our day. The track was a gentle incline and again led us to fabulous views of the Robertstown area.

We had thought there would be lots of mud on this trip, as previous

trips in the Burra region had always had lots of mud, but today we only found mud puddles. Fun all the same, but by the time 11 vehicles went through there was no puddle left! We went past a concrete solar rainwater tank! It was quite unusual but the solar panels were for the pump running it. There were also remnants of old stone fences now replaced with the post and rail variety.

The job of Tail End Charlie started with The Tourist, but after filling up at two gates with lollies, Sherpa had to take over! We drove past a turn off to Inspiration Point. I wondered at the time what we needed inspiration for, as we were very happy doing what we were doing.

We were going through the Tothill Ranges which is a Heritage Area and there were Bushland Conservation areas that were looking magnificent. There was only 1 compulsory U-turn for the day but only the trip leader did it. Going straight ahead instead of turning left.

Whilst looking for a lunch spot we came across an old cemetery in the middle of some paddocks. There were graves for a couple of families in one area dating back to 1906 with the most recent being death 1958. But across the track in a paddock were 3 other graves. 1 of a 15 month old child who died in 1851!



After a rocky climb we had lunch at a glorious wind-free location where the quiz was marked. 1st Woodys, 2nd River Rats, 3rd The Buckets. It was really good fun. Thanks Mossiah for that time and effort.

After lunch we headed off and got to a track with a "Boggy When Wet" sign on it! We were so excited, but unfortunately the track wasn't wet so we didn't have a boggy time! There was evidence of water being on the track though so maybe next time we could be luckier.

We headed on to Burra Gorge and met up with Nike and Sparky (-2), and headed up some steep but fun inclines. We got to an old dry creek bed and had a little bit of fun there, but the "day trippers" needed to start heading home.

It was at this point the group split into 2 with about half heading home and the other half lingering longer at Wannalingalonga. We lead the group heading home but deserted them at the Grenock turnoff as we where on a time frame to get home.

Thank you Sherpa (for getting us to Wannalingalonga safely), Mossiah & Mallee Boy for a great and fun day trip. We look forward to lingering longer with you very soon.

River Rats

(Angie, Shaun, Madison and Jackson Lawson)



Strezlecki Strolling

The time had come to head bush, so with a short leadtime the trip was on. My Grand Vitara, Jay & Miranda in an old Pajero with a camper, and Kerry & Kylie in a Patrol. A comfortable number for a trip like this, with plans made but the need to be flexible very much in mind in case of poor weather, vehicle problems and so on.

We set off on the last Saturday in July, for the long and fairly boring drive north. The trip had been planned to try and avoid spending all day in the car, so a late start from Adelaide saw lunch a bit south of Port Augusta then a duck in to grab the last cheap(?) fuel for a while. After stopping to grab some photos of a passing steam train on the Pichi Richi camp was made in Parachilna Gorge, always a beautiful place to stop.

The next morning saw us explore a side track north from the middle of the Gorge that looked like it led back to the main road north on the maps, but a wrong turning and lack of time made us retreat back to Parachilna and head north on the main road.

The plan for night 2 was to make Monte Collina Bore. The first part of the Strezlecki was a bit corrugated and rough, but after about 60km it smoothed out nicely and the only hazard was the occasional oncoming road train. Already it was becoming evident how much the country changes. Flood plains and similar for the first part, just after the Arkaroola turnoff a change to white sand, then later on into the red desert. A beautiful sunset from a lookout just past the Arkaroola Road, then into Monte Collina to set up camp, and have a nice dinner.

This was one of the special nights of the trip. After dinner and a few drinks we went to the bore, only about 50m away. The bore pipe feeds into a large pool, with a smaller one scooped out nearby that you can move the pipe into. 9pm on Sunday night we sat in a 35 degree spa in the middle of nowhere, a cold plunge pool next door, bottle of champagne and a billion stars overhead. If anyone asks for a reason to do trips like this, tell them that!

By this stage it was obvious that the desert we were planning to find

wasn't there. Recent rains meant the desert was covered with wildflowers. Mainly bright yellow which with the green leaves stood out against the red sand. Other spots had white or blue flowers. We were very lucky to see the desert like this, I am sure in summer it would look a lot different!

The next day another gentle start and on towards Innamincka. Detouring to Merty Merty we took the Old Strezlecki which led us to our first water. A couple of small pools of water with no chicken tracks presented no problems, and the view of mini Texas oil wells was also interesting. We had some light rain on this section that looked a lot heavier east (as it later proved). The plan had been to camp at Coongie Lakes but the possibility of rain made us decide to camp closer to town just in case the tracks got interesting!

Tuesday our fears had proved to be unfounded. So after exploring some of the local monuments and a very pleasant lunch in the Innamincka Hotel we headed towards Kudriemitchie Outstation for the night. We found magic campsite and settled in to watch the sunset over the Cooper, and the usual billion stars, meteorites and satellites on display.

Wednesday was the quiet day, we headed back to the Outstation to refill the water bottles from the rainwater tanks and had a chat to the Toyota Club people who were leaving to head south after a Simpson Trip. More about them later! Then a short drive up to Coongie Lakes for a relaxing day driving around the southern side, some bushwalking and bird watching. This unluckily was the only cloudy day of the trip, I am sure the lakes would have looked more spectacular in the sunshine. Back to camp mid afternoon to play on the Cooper with the blow up boat and some fishing from one member of the group.

That night saw the only worrying part of the trip. About 9pm it started bucketing down and thoughts were that if it kept up the road out might be at least fun if not impassable. Luckily after about 30 minutes panic of getting the awning on the camper and my swag undercover it stopped, and a bit later we had clear skies for the rest of the night.

Thursday, back to Innamincka. There was a bit more water on the track but the rain had obviously been patchy. A few km of dry, then 1 km of

puddles, and so on. We detoured out via the Durantie Track which was a very nice run, despite a long wet section behind a sand dune. At this point it was obvious after a bump and some corrugations that repairs were needed to the towbar on the Pajero towing the camper, so while that took a couple of hours we retired to the pub once again for a nice lunch. We also found out the track to the Lakes had been closed (one advantage of being at the other end is you don't know this). Don't know why, we could have done the main track back in 2WD with no problems.

After the repairs were completed, it was time to continue east and then down the Bore Track. This was where it became obvious that some areas had got the rain we saw a few days before. No dramas, with every wet patch having a bypass track. The only fun came when I looked at one section and thought I could keep out of the ruts and hit it about 60. Result – into the ruts. Step 1, drop back into 2nd High and gun it. Step 2, quickly radio the camper not to follow. Step 3, turn on wipers and keep going. Lots of revs and just made it through with a very red Suzuki the result. Despite being unplanned I was quite proud, never having got it quite that dirty before, despite many previous attempts!

That didn't prove to be all smooth sailing, as a few kms later we stopped on a gibber plain to find the silly plastic trim under the left hand doors hanging off again, filled with mud. Removed that, and on to a campsite near Innamincka Bore 3, the first cold night of the trip. But a campfire, a few glasses and we were quite comfortable.

Friday, continued south with a detour for a quick look at the Dullingari Gas Facility operated by Santos. Then back south on the Bore Track, and into Bollards Lagoon station to pay our \$10 each vehicle for using the last section of the track. This is where we found out about the Toyota Club again, the day we met them they were heading through here and one vehicle missed the corner outside the station and rolled. Result: One written off vehicle, 2 people with injuries and a visit from RFDS Broken Hill. I have since heard that luckily the people were not badly hurt. Apparently it took 4 people to lift the loaded roof rack off the vehicle or where it had ended up in the dirt, so perhaps a bit more weight than suggested was on top. But a sorry finish to a Simpson trip.

After that, into Cameron Corner store for a quick chat and a beer before heading into Sturt National Park in NSW, took the 4WD only tracks (yeah right, could have done them in a Commodore) and camped at Olive Downs. The only night a campfire wasn't permitted.

Saturday, unluckily it was time to start heading home. A great view of the jump ups from a nearby lookout before running into Tibooburra for fuel. Then the long trip back to Broken Hill and camped at Silverton where an entertaining night was had at the Silverton Hotel – I've completed the challenge, do it if you are there. You even get a certificate.

Sunday, as expected the long boring run back to Adelaide.

That's been a quick summary of the 9 days away. But it really only glosses over the whole experience. The outback at times flat as far as the eye can see. Then further on dunes, hills or small mountains rising up from the horizon. Flowers in the desert. The always awesome view of the Milky Way you never get near the coast. A hot desert spa miles from anything. Sunset over the Cooper. A cold beer and a chat with the wonderful people you find in these outback communities.

All I can say is GO and do it. This wasn't a hard core 4WD trip, and apart from the Bore Track we could have done it in a 2WD with reasonable clearance. But when you do it, don't just set the destination and go. Take your time. Stop at the ruins and monuments along the way. Find the history and think about the people who made these places accessible so many years ago. If you are lucky enough to be in the lead out of the dust leave the window down and soak up the atmosphere.

Travel isn't about just crossing another track off the list and getting to the end. It's about getting out there and experiencing it. I wonder how many of the truckies hauling road trains up and down have ever got out half way, stepped out into the wilderness and really thought about where they are. Stop at every landmark or river crossing and go for a walk. To me these trips aren't about the 4WDing but just being in those places, that luckily a 4WD helps me get to.

See pics on the centre pages

Trip Report – the great Miray rescue

It all started with the Daihatsu, a venerable 1976 F20 4WD ute, missing windscreen, doors and most of its bodywork, but still a go-anywhere vehicle for use around the property. Well, as it turns out, nearly anywhere – the much abused starter motor finally packed up on a trip down the track to our dam, about 600m along and about 100m down. So we walk up.

It was carrying a lot of heavy gear that I didn't much feel like carrying up by hand, so we hop into my son Owen's old SWB Pajero and off we go. It was a bit slippery going down, but no real dramas until it was time to come up again – and now the fun starts – the road tyres on the Paj weren't that keen on the slippery wet clay.. So we walk up again.

Two down. We were off to the Strz next morning, so despite the complaints from my son who for some reason wanted his car back,, I resisted the temptation to take the LWB Pajero down, and left everything where it was.

When we got back from the trip, Kerry and Kylie who came with us, kindly volunteered to bring their Patrol to the rescue. Leaving Kylie and Miranda at the house, us hardy menfolk set off down the hill and started winching operations. The angles weren't that good though, and when the cable got a bit damaged, we decided to call it a day and head back up. At this point the Ironbank clay claimed its third victim. Time to call for help – aint mobile phones wonderful. Oh, and walk up again.

At this point I discovered just how friendly and helpful the 4WD community was- vehicles started arriving from all points of the compass. First down was Mike in a humongous 6 wheeler, which looked to me like something out of Mad Max II – but to everyone's surprise it really didn't like the mud much, either, and almost immediately started to slide, coming to rest a metre or so from a rather solid looking gatepost.

Four Down. That's as bad as it got, but I was beginning to think of starting a 4WD car yard. It was getting dark, so the rest of the evening was spent retrieving the Hummer clone before heading off to the Club

Meeting,(and poor Kerry and Kylie had to get a lift home).

All of which is the pre-ambule to the great Ironbank Retrieval Trip, which was announced at the club meeting.. Saturday morning, a dozen or so vehicles assembled , equipped with chains, winches and what looked like enough cable to re-string the harbour bridge. First step was to retrieve the Patrol, but fitting the chains made all the difference, and Kerry got his car back without too much trouble.

Next step was a winch job on the Pajero, using a block hanging off three star droppers to get the angles right, followed by a tow up the hill from Donald's Prado, again fitted with chains . Setting it all up, and banging in the star droppers took some time, but with a couple more winch sessions, the job was done.

Time for an early lunch and a beer or two, with Snags kindly provided by Kerry and duly incinerated by me on the barbeque. Funny how Miranda doesn't usually let me cook.

Only the Daihatsu left, and despite my protests that I really didn't mind if it stayed down there until the summer, Richard and Pat set off down the hill,and almost predictably, had to be retrieved all over again. This time the star-droppers almost let go – and indeed one ended up looking like a pretzel, but in the end everyone got up again, with Richard's Suzuki ending the day by being the only vehicle to do the run from bottom to top without stopping or needing a winch.

What have I learned? A bit more about winching and arranging snatch blocks, but mostly that 4WD'ers, and in particular, members of the MLR are mates in the true Aussie sense of the word, but that they do like a challenge, and if one isn't forthcoming, they'll happily do it all over again .

By the way, the Daihatsu is still there.



Strezlecki desert was covered in flowers



Coongie Lakes stretched on for miles



3 cars at the start of the Strezlecki track, Richary, Kerry & Kylie,
then Jay & Miranda



Sunset over the Cooper near Kudriemitchie Outstation

September 2005

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

CM Club Meeting
 B Barmera Trip
 W Whyalla Weekend

October 2005

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

CM Club Meeting

CW Cooking Weekend at Jack's Paddock

NG Ngarkat Cleanup

RM Rocklea/Monarto camping trip

W Whyalla Weekend

4WD 4WD Show—volunteers needed

SOCIAL SCENE

CAMP COOK WEEKEND

The camp cook week-end at Jacks Paddock for the 8th & 9th October 2005 is fast approaching and the following information is needed from those attending the weekend:

A description of the meal that you intend to cook for the evening, the recipe and the time you need to have the meal cooked.

Try to provide if possible two options that will allow a broader range of meals (in case we have multiples of the same meal).

A list will be provided that identifies the time you need to have your meal prepared by.

We need to start collecting (accumulating fire wood) we have two offers of light wood i.e. pine etc, but hard wood is needed to ensure we have a good hot fire, the cooking with large numbers requires lots of good hot coals.

Ensure all children attending understand the rules about the fire place, we wish to avoid accidents and all to have a good time.

Why do we need your favourite camp oven meals and recipes?

Firstly the organising committee need to arrange the order in which meals are cooked i.e. Snacks and breads first, light meals next, roasts etc then deserts.

It all sounds simple but greatly assists in having meals ready on a continuous flow during the evening.

It will provide each cook an idea when to start preparing and cooking the favourite dish in the correct order as arranged by the committee

We do not want all the meals ready at one time!

Sample Only:

Reed	Bread	5:00pm
Oborn	Pumpkin Soup	5:00pm
Morgan/Holberton	Pizza	5:00pm
Lawson	Nachos	5:15pm
Curtis	Pork Rolls	5:30pm
Moss	Chicken Stir Fry	5:45pm
Tucker	Roast	6:00pm
Byrne	Chocolate Pudding	7:00pm

The format of the evening is for everyone to sample each meal so if we know the number attending the meals can be prepared accordingly.

By having the opportunity to sample of each meal by the end of the night will have had a chance to taste a broad range of meals and provide ideas for future trips away.

Learning form others is always invaluable.

Why do we want your recipes?

If all the recipes are supplied we have the opportunity to create a book of recipes that can be added to our internet site for everybody to use and if the demand is there maybe create a book of recipes.

It is also important that anyone has any food allergies, this will provide an opportunity to identify those items that may be of concern to some.

Social Committee

Social Committee

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CAMP COOK WEEKEND - GPS NAVIGATION COURSE

For those interested we will again run the GPS walking navigation course. Approximately 3kms @ 1.0 to 1.5 hours

Items needed to under take the course:

1. GPS and or some one who can drive it! That is an ability to input GPS co-ordinates and change them (7 waypoints in total).
2. Walking boots fully covered.
3. Long trousers, to avoid leg scratches in the Pine Forest (if unsure ask Angie Lawson the consequence of wearing knee high attire with bare legs)
4. Pair of sun/safety glasses to forest your eyes in the forest from small pine branches, or for those branches that get released in your face by the person walking in front of you!
5. The courses require team work, only one team got lost last year, we can only improve from here we hope!

Sense of humor.

Jeff Morgan

Upcoming Trips

[illegible]

1-3 October—Whyalla weekend—organized by the Whyalla 4WD club, this is definitely worth a visit in this it's 3rd year. You must register beforehand (i.e. tonight) as you need to be attending as part of a club trip. People will be traveling up anytime from Friday morning to Saturday morning so someone is bound to be leaving at the same time as you.

1-3 October—Ngarkat working bee—help the ranger clean up the tracks and assist in keeping things open for 4WDers.

☆
☆ 8-9 October—Camp Cooking Weekend at Jack's Paddock. See ☆
☆ page 18. ☆
☆

14-16 October—4WD Show at Victoria Park Racecourse.
Volunteers needed to man the stand. Talk to Jeff Morgan if you
can help.

22-23 October—Rocklea/Monarto—this is the private property where we had some pics up last month. If it is muddy you will definitely be able to get stuck and practice recovery. But apart from the gullies and hills, there is a great dam that will make a very nice camping area. No facilities provided, so BYO everything.

5-6 November—Navrun—this event is about duplicating photos in some interesting places. People will be given locations and instructions, and asked to duplicate the shot with extra points given for originality. This will only go ahead if enough interest is shown as it will take some organization in advance.



MLR Club Training

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

Certificate 4 Course 10-11 Sept, 24-25 Sept, 8-9 Oct, 22-23
Oct 2005

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

Some GPS training will happen at the Camp Cooking weekend.

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



MT LOFTY RANGERS

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Please see a committee member for the above purchases.

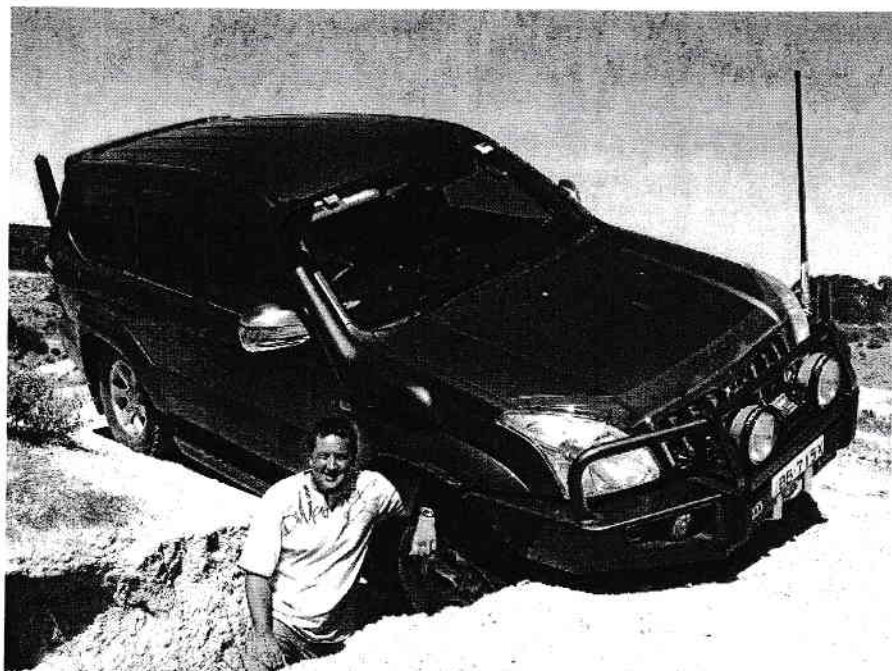
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Caps <i>(including logo embroidered on)</i>	\$13.00
NEW ITEM	
Bucket Hats <i>(including logo embroidered on & GST)</i>	\$13.00

If you require clothing please speak to a committee member.

ITEMS FOR LOAN

Books (hopefully in the future)	Recovery Kit
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.



Trip Coordinator Peter Ellery has fun at Morgan earlier this year.

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Trading Mart

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 - 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 mariannej@aapt.net for further details or to arrange inspection.

With our recent upgrade to a 2003 Jackaroo TD, our 1989 Pajero V6 Manual needs a new home. Willing worker and good pedigree - recently returned from a Coongie Lakes trip towing a Camper Trailer with no problems, and was the only vehicle not to get bogged in a recent play in the mud!. Suspension recently serviced, with new shocks and heavy duty springs, and a new CD player recently fitted for those long trips. Tyres, battery etc good, and lots of reg - to next July. It's done 260,000 Km, but it's been regularly serviced, and at \$4500 ono its a good way to start 4WD-ing without spending the big bucks. Call Jay on 0432 934 682 for a test drive (but probably not down our track till it dries out a bit more!)

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