



Rangers' Review

Volume 12 No.3

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

May 2006



Clubs are about teamwork as this Rocklea pic from last year shows. Enough people on a snatch strap can stop a sideways slide during a nasty rear winch recovery with a creek too close on the other side!

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"President's Report"



And now for my last word as President...

I believe that the past twelve months in the life of The Mount Lofty Rangers has been both positive and progressive. I believe we have made one of the best 4WD Clubs in SA even better. I believe that the work the Executive has started this past year has only just begun.

I have appreciated the support of the members of the Executive throughout the year. We have tackled a number of major issues and have met them head on and seen each one through to a reasonable resolution.

I have appreciated the work and support of non-Executive members of the club who faithfully attend events, offer advice and support and willingly pitch in when required. Let me encourage everyone to continue in this way.

While I have made many mistakes throughout the year I feel most embarrassed about our club's website. It has remained static for most of the past 11 months and while Mike Hayes moving to Whyalla and other issues have been factors contributing to its stagnation I will take responsibility for my failure here. There will be improvements made - they will happen.

I wish the new Executive team every success and smooth sailing throughout 2006/7 and you never know your luck - I may just stand for President again some day in the (not too distant) future.

Wishing you lots of mud, rocks, sand and fun!

Langy!



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SOCIAL SCENE

LASER SKIRMISH – Saturday 27th May 2006

- *How about a fun evening playing Laser Skirmish!
- *Where – Laser Zone 3, 867 South Road Clarence Gardens.
- *When - Saturday 27th May 2006 at 5.00pm
- *Cost – At this stage we have booked for 21 people at a cost of \$300. This is \$14.30 per person for 1 hour of skirmish which should be 4 games. If there are more than 21 people interested we will book another session later. As we need exact numbers to ensure the people do attend we ask that you pay your money upfront. This money can be paid either to one of the Social Committee members or Jay & Miranda Morfeys (Treasurer).

*For those who would like to make a night of it the Maid of Auckland Hotel is just down the road at 926 South Road Clarence Gardens.

*If you would like to attend Laser Skirmish &/or dinner just put your name on the list and don't forget to pay for the Skirmish. If you have any further questions please ask one of the friendly Social Committee members.

MID YEAR DINNER – Saturday 22nd July 2006 at THE BELAIR HOTEL at 7.30pm

*This year our mid year dinner is going to be at The Belair Hotel, in the Conservatory. It will commence at 7.30pm and is \$23.00 per person for the buffet. Mark your diaries now and we will commence a list at the June meeting and a deposit will be required.

CAMP COOK WEEKEND AT JACK'S PADDOCK – Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd September

*Jack's Paddock is at Kuitpo Forest and you can arrive any time after 12.00 noon. You can camp the night or just drive home after you have a great evening of camp cooking and tastings. As in previous visits to Jack's Paddock we will be bush camping (Camper Trailers, Vans, Tents or Swags). Dinner will be shared on Saturday evening with each family cooking either your favourite camp meal or why not try something new.

*We will not start a trip list at this stage but mark your diaries with the date; a list will be started a bit closer to the event.

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

*Social Committee

Upcoming Trips

June long weekend—Melrose A possibly Navrun event to be organized.

★ ★ ★ **July School Holidays—Simpson Desert.** Rick Luff is ★ ★ ★
organizing another trip up the Oodnadatta Track, across to ★ ★ ★
Birdsville then home via Innamincka and Cameron Corner. Put ★ ★ ★
this one in your diaries if you can get away for two weeks. ★ ★ ★

★ **August 5—September 2. 16 DAY CANNING STOCK ROUTE** ★
★ **- North To South.** Adelaide, Coober Pedy, Alice Springs, ★
★ Tanami Track to Billuna - (3-4 days), Wiluna, Kalgoorlie (1-2 ★
★ Days), Eucla, Whales at Head of Bight – (Scenic Flight), Port ★
★ Augusta, Adelaide (2 Days). Canning 16 days. 4 days ★
★ Tolerance / extra rest stops, Limit 5 Vehicles, No Trailers. Must ★
★ be equipped for long range travel – Longest distance between ★
★ fuel 1400 km's (No fuel Dump). Trip leader Mark Curtis , Hm ★
★ 8358 4776 / Mb 0408 297 065, curtismark@ozemail.com.au ★



MLR Club Training

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

Under Development:

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

Basic Training Theory - Mid Year June/July date to be finalised . We are setting up basic training theory so that it can be run in conjunction with other clubs to provide a good class size.

Location: DTU Training Rooms, Cavan

Time: 8:30am - 5:00pm over one weekend

Cost: Approx \$80.00 to be confirmed. (includes Training Books)

Club Trainers

Advisor's: Shaun Lawson.

Trainer's: Ian Manglesdorf, Paul West, Tim Byrne, Paul Tabone.

Assessor's: Ken Bradey, Mark Curtis, Layne Holberton, Jeff Morgan, Christian Whamond, Ricky Esser, George Haniotis.

FUTURE EVENTS

Warren Gorge Skills Update 20-21st May

Kuitpo Skills update (Mud) 29-30th May

TSG Update (Existing Trainers) 19-20th August

4WD Drive Show 13-15th October

Training Small Groups 21-22nd October

Skills Update (Sand) 4-5th November



MT LOFTY RANGERS

Lets Promote Our Club!!!

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 (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.

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 N
7 N	8 N, 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.

N Ngarkat Working Bee

June 2006

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

CM Club meeting.

M Melrose trip / Navrun

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PYRENEES TRIP

EASTER 06

A 9-00 meet up at Woodcroft shopping centre for myself (Pat, Nick and Alex), the Callarys (Darren, Raquel, Shania and Piper) and Frank and Debbie was the start of this years Easter trip. Next stopping point was Tailem Bend to pick up the rest of those making the six hour journey to the Pyrenees State Forest near Avoca in Victoria. We joined up with the rest of the gang the Luffs (Rick, Judy, Jess and David), Glen and Pam; the Shorties (Dave, Sheralyn and Jack) and finally Skippy and Leonie. Getting an early start meant missing most of the Easter traffic and it was an uneventful journey to Elmhurst, here we hit the dirt road and eventually the track to Cameron Track Campground. A minor problem for Shorty, he couldn't engage low range to pull his camper up the steepish track, this was soon fixed with a hacksaw and we all made camp before dusk. We were joined later in the night by Pete and Kylie; Kerry, Brenton and Langy. The campground was great, with a shelter, rainwater tank, fire pit and long drop. The fire pit was certainly put to good use as it was very cold and windy due to the altitude.

Good Friday saw us split into two groups to hit the tracks. Skippy led my group along some interesting tracks whilst Peter Ellery took his group off to explore some others. The new and old Tiger Tracks were a good introduction to what was on offer, steep and rutted fire trails through the forest. Next one we went down was Old Bluff Track which was to become everyone's favourite I think, but more of that later. We then ventured onto Slate Quarry track searching for the quarry. This was very steep with some big steps to negotiate. Team Luff were in front at this stage and Rick carefully picked a line down and we all followed. I probably didn't follow closely enough though and soon had the rear left wheel hanging in the air with the car leaning precariously. With a bit of help from Rick pushing and Glen standing on the rear step I reversed back and took a better

line. We stopped at the bottom while the kids threw rocks into a pool near the old quarry before proceeding further along the track, no one was too keen to go back up the way we had just come.

The best laid plans don't always work, there was a tree blocking the way and it was a big one. Cutting it with the bow saw didn't help and it took two winches to eventually pull it off the track. Of course it started to rain as well, doesn't it always? So an hour later we headed back to camp for lunch hiding under the shelter. Keen for more adventures Glen and Shorty jumped in the Jeep Wrangler and I followed in the Patrol for another look at Old Bluff Track. Two hours of heavy rain had made a big difference, what was a difficult descent previously was now a slippery slide down a raging torrent of clay filled water. We made it down inch by inch with lots of help from each other picking the best spots to place a wheel. It was pretty nerve wracking though with a large off camber boulder and a tree to negotiate near the bottom. Just when we'd got over that little episode we received a message from the other group over the radio that a hand winch was needed on Fraser Track. Glen had one on board, the Wrangler resembles a TARDIS, he had everything imaginable in such a small car.

Kerry was stuck on the track and had burnt out his winch trying to get up and it wasn't safe for the other cars with winches to get down to him, hence the need for the hand winch. I think we skated down to the stranded car, it was too slippery to walk, but we were unable to hand winch him, so he had to leave his car on the side of the track overnight. It was getting dark and with safety in mind plus the thought of a nice warm fire waiting back at camp carrying on wasn't an option. The track dried out overnight and the car was able to be driven back up the track without any drama. Mission accomplished we went back for another play on Old Bluff, this time trying to go up instead of down. There are three lines to take, one to the left was not viable without a monster truck with 37" tyres but the middle one looked like fun. Alas it beat us. Frank gave it a good shot with both diff locks engaged but the track won the day. We ended up taking the right hand side which still took a few goes to get up.

After lunch on Saturday we decided the boys had had enough fun (OK it was decided for us) and an afternoon winery trip was organised followed by dinner at the Elmhurst Hotel. The publican was a bit overwhelmed by a booking of 24 for dinner at short notice but soon organised staff for the night and pointed us in the direction of some good wineries near Avoca. Dinner at the pub was great, Steve was a very good host and as luck would have it, a fellow 4 wheel driver. He arranged to take us on a drive to Mount Cole Forest next morning.

We had a mystery visitor some time on early on Sunday morning in the shape of the Easter Bunny, he left chocolate eggs for everyone, and Shania made sure we were all awake to find them. Some of the ladies headed off to Ballarat markets for lunch and a look around the town while the rest of us headed into Mount Cole. Steve, our guide, pointed out some local landmarks and gave us a run down of the history of the area and guided us up Mount Sugarloaf. This was a great track, steep in parts, very twisty and surprisingly sandy. The views from the top were breathtaking. The main group headed back to the pub while Langy and Skippy introduced me and my two boys to the sport of Geocaching. The boys found a couple of hidden treasures, taught me a thing or two about the GPS and are looking forward to trying again. It made for a very enjoyable day. Sunday night was also the mildest night with little wind so it made for a great night cooking on the campfire.

All good things come to an end and Monday saw us packing up camp for the drive home. The rain was horrendous on the highway past Bordertown with very poor visibility in places. With news of heavy traffic leaving Oakbank we all went our separate ways at Monarto and Mount Barker. It was a great trip, the tracks are certainly very challenging when wet but with the experience and guidance of fellow club members we all made it home unscathed. Plans are already underway for next year, possibly camping out the back of the Elmhurst pub. Put it in your diaries now because you won't want to miss it.

Patrick O'Kane



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A final word from me as Editor. I've enjoyed the challenge of getting the magazine together each month, though I have often been pressed for time. I hope I have done a good job with the material available each month and provided what you as the members want.

A lot has happened personally in my life over the last year (all positive!) but it means I don't have the time to dedicate the magazine any more.

Luckily someone has stepped up and I wish them all the best, and I will be there to help out as they learn the ropes and come to grips with it.

No Committee listing this month as most of it is changing!

Cheers

Richard Jary

Trading Mart

FOR SALE:

- Generator—Honda EM100F \$600
- Hand winch \$150
- Hilux suspension – suit IFS dual cab '97-'05 \$960
- Rock climbing equipment \$400
- Various camping equipment—offers taken

See Donald Ward, phone 8265 1636 / 0408 848 734

Burra Gorge review—by Richard Jary

This wasn't organised as a club trip, and wasn't even a 4WDing trip. But Donald Ward and myself (with our respective better halves) went up for a brief trip over the Anzac Day weekend. I could only stay one night and Donald stayed for three.

If you haven't been here, it isn't as spectacular as a gorge as I thought it would be. But it is still a nice camping area and not far from home. The main section is quite open and flat and you would be near others especially on a long weekend. But a quick drive around, and we turned left just as you entered the main area with the signs and found a nice area all to ourselves. There are also camping areas on the south side of the creek that had nobody in there.

Wood was a bit scarce, and needed a bit of a hunt. But the very chilly night meant it was very welcome. Definitely work a visit for an overnigher, and if you are energetic the walk up the hill to north gives great views!