



Rangers' Review

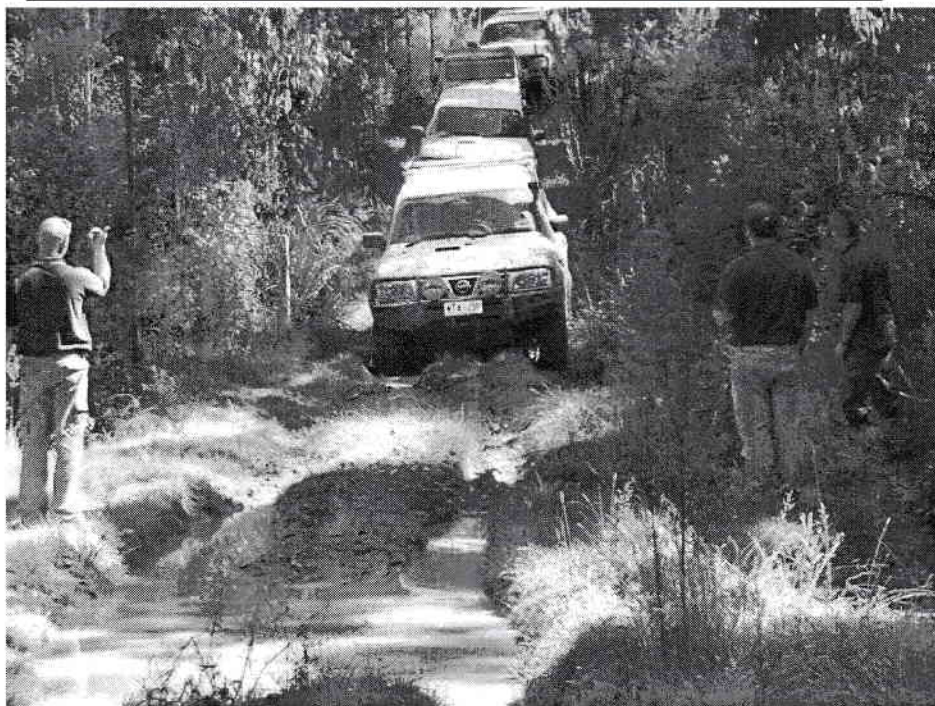
Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051

www.mountloftyrangers.com.au

Volume 13 No.11

April 2008



Negotiating the Otways track over Easter

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Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

About Us

The clubs aim is to enjoy all aspects of owning and using our 4WD's while enjoying the diverse surroundings offered by this great country. We are a club of 4WD enthusiasts who enjoy challenging driving, regular trips, camping, camp cooks and a great social scene on and off track.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone who owns a 4WD regardless of its make or model and has a passion for driving. Mount Lofty Rangers Inc is an affiliated member of the SA Association of 4WD Clubs.

Club Outings

The Mount Lofty Rangers provides regular day, weekend and extended four wheel drive trips, lead by experienced trip leaders. Trips are rated on the level of difficulty and are available to all members and guests.

The club has a dedicated social committee who also organises regular events that compliment the club trips.

Experience and Training

Our current members possess a wide range of skills ranging from beginner to advanced. The club has a number of accredited instructors and assessors, and is involved in regular training via the SAAFWDC Driver Training Unit.

Meetings

Club meetings are the second Monday of each month* and are held at the

Blackwood Football Club

Trevor Terrace

Blackwood

Time 7:15 pm

*Except where this Monday falls on a long weekend then the meeting is held on the 3rd Monday of the month

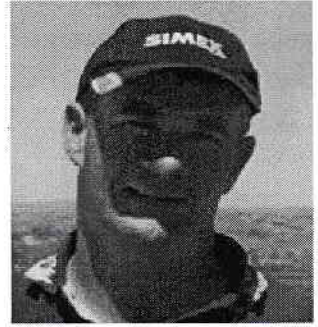
Information

For more information on the Club please check out our website at:

www.mountloftyrangers.com.au

MT LOFTY RANGERS UHF CLUB CHANNEL NO 27

"Shorty's Presidential Report"



Hi all,

Well isn't the weather better now. Just to let you know how sick of the hot weather I was. I had set up the camper trailer on the back lawn to do a couple jobs on it. The house really hadn't cooled down that much. So I decided to sleep in the camper a few nights & I had the best sleep ever. Now that its cooled down ,much better weather for camping.

We had our trip to Otways Forest. What a great place lots of trees, ferns & mud. We had some rain on & off which was great. Read more about it in the Trip Reports.

A trip will go up on the board for Gawler Ranges-Mt Ives for Anzac weekend April 25-27th sounds like a great trip bush camping & accommodation available

There are some trips coming up in following months some of them tough. All trips require your vehicle to be in top condition & everything checked and serviced. Last thing you want to happen on a trip is a mechanical or electrical failure of some type just because you thought she'll be right my car never breaks down.

There will be AGM Nomination forms available to be filled out. The AGM will be in May. Nominations will close at end of tonight's meeting. We need a lot of nominations as mostly all positions will be vacant. Take a think about becoming a committee member. It's not a huge task and without a committee we don't have a club

Also AGM night is pizza night so put you name & numbers attending down in the sign in book.

See you on a Trip.

Dave Willsmore (Shorty)



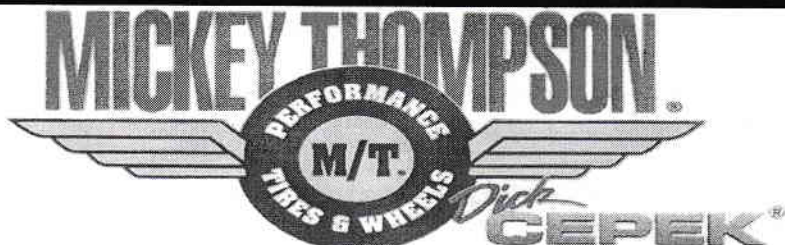
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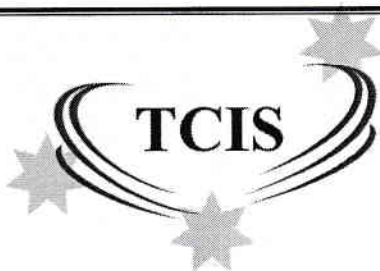
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EASTER IN THE OTWAYS

7.30am Thursday, Shorty, Sheralyn & Jack left Mt Barker headed for the Otways in Victoria – just over 700kms away. This is a beautiful rainforest setting, nestled amongst pine tree plantations. (as we ascend I feel like we are half way to heaven) The old gum trees are something to behold, as they are so large. A freshwater river flows behind our chosen campsite (Redwoods), where, if you are lucky, fresh water cray (yabbies) and trout can be caught.

First stop was morning tea at Keith bakery, then onto Hamilton for fuel and lunch, arriving at the Otways at 5pm. Our chosen campsite already had campers, as school holidays had just begun in Victoria. Shortly after setting up our camper, Anthony (our previous president) and partner Keera arrived, followed by John, Maxine and 3 kids later that evening. As we didn't have a campfire we all retired relatively early because it was cold. Sometime around 3am, Matt, and Glenn and Pam arrived, to be gratefully ushered by Anthony into (and Matt under) his camper.

Good Friday. After some minor mechanical repairs to Matt and Shortys vehicles (which time didn't allow for before leaving), we all departed camp around 11.45am for a short "scout around" of possible tracks. The boys aired down at Beauchamp Falls Rd then into Deppler Creek track, a narrow track covered in thick vegetation. Not far along was a mud hole, which Glenn had to snatch John out of. On Flanagan Road, Matt proceeded through more mud with ease. John was pulled backwards by Glenn, then forwards by Matt on his 2nd attempt. Glenn was pulled backwards by Anthony (twice), then managed to "plough through".



Anthony was pulled back twice by Shorty; straddled half way, to be pulled forwards to the end by Glenn. Shorty got through successfully first go, scattering the spectators. Unknown to us at the time, this was only the beginning of fun in the mud.

We arrived back at camp for lunch at 2.30pm, after spending half an hour to remove a very tall, fallen pine tree on the track.

After lunch the girls opted to stay at camp to catch some zzzz's, while the boys went to play in some "serious" mud.

Later that afternoon Gary, Cathy and Mandy Sawyer arrived, and after some minor “tent shuffling” with the Vic campers, they were able to set up. Not long after, new members Barrie and Ros arrived and set up their tent. Because of a “space crisis” we had a relatively small campfire well underway prior to the boys return after dark. Their vehicles were all alike – camouflaged in a thick brown coating, with barely a glow to guide them. So with dinners underway and beers in hand, the tales of “afternoon adventures in the mud” were told.

Later in the evening Barrie brought out his guitar and sang some lovely ballads. Saturday: After another cold night, Barrie and Ros decided to head into Colac to purchase “warmer” camping gear. Anthony and Keera, and John and family also went into Colac.

So the rest of us headed for Clearwater track. Now for those of you who have been on a trip with Shorty before, you can understand why I suggested that everyone have their fridges stocked. The next 6 hours were something to behold, and if this story is not continued this month, rest assured the story will continue. Our family arrived home on Monday around 8pm, after a fantastic weekend of scenery, socializing and sliding through the mud. Thanks to everyone who joined us.

Sheralyn (Mrs Shorty)



Easter Saturday at the Otways

People on the trip were:

Shorty (leader), Sheralyn & Jack; Matt; Glenn & Pam; John, Max, Hannah, Zoe & Daniel; ex MLR president Anthony & Keira, newcomer Barry & wife and us Gary, Cathy & Miranda

It was time to leave the Redwoods campground which due to Victorian school holidays having started was packed, in fact one kind group packed up their kitchen tent and moved it just so we could fit our camper in.

The maps came out and the Clearwater track was chosen for no other reason other than being close to camp and no-one had driven it before.

To enter the Clearwater track meant negotiating our way around some large trees on a tight side track around the bollards. (The thought was soon put out by Glen that the bollards might have been there for a reason after encountering continuous, serious bog holes).

For us the first bog meant winching out. Although every second tree in the Otway Forest measures about 2 metres around, unfortunately in this spot they were all closer to 2 inches! so finding a suitable winching point was not easy. We ended up snapping the winch cable due to the side angle we had to pull from, no problem Shorty to the rescue to winch us through.

The rest of the day followed the same pattern. Of the 4 cars on the track, Glenn in his Jeep, Shorty, Matt and us in Patrols, most mud holes or series of holes and ruts saw 1 or 2 cars get through and the others snatched through.

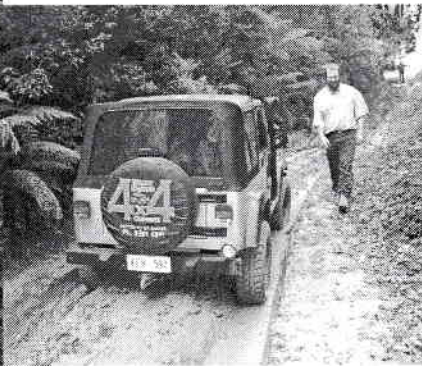
Overall the score was pretty even with all of us having our moment of glory and conquering a section of track.

The day could be summed up by saying 12kms in 5 hours or in Shorty's words "That was the toughest track we've ever done but the best day's driving".

If you love your car more than you love having fun don't go to the Otways. If you love having fun more than you love your car the Otways is the place to go.

Thanks to Shorty for organising the trip and Barry for entertaining us around the campfire.

Gary, Cathy & Miranda.



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SOCIAL SCENE

MONARTO ZOO - 17th-18th May

See Upcoming Trips

OTHER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

If you have any other suggestions for a fun day or afternoon please let Lyn, Jo or Sheralyn know. We will advise you of more details soon.

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

Social Committee



NGARKAT CONSERVATION PARK

FWDSA -INTERCLUB WORKING BEE

The autumn 2008 working bee at Ngarkat will take place over
the Anzac Day long weekend
April 25th, 26th & 27th 2008

Please include this date in your Club's calendar of events as
soon as possible

Full details of the working bee will be emailed to the clubs in
early January

Ngarkat Tracks Maintenance Committee

Upcoming Trips

Summary of up coming trips:

When putting your name down for a trip you

MUST include your contact number

If you cannot attend and your name is on the trip sheet you

MUST contact the trip leader or Trips coordinator.

1. Anzac L/Wend 25-27 Broken Hill and surrounds.
2. May 17-18 WallFlat/Monarto Zoo
3. July 5-7 Gregorys Food and Wine Festival. Yorke Peninsular.
4. July 8-13 Dalhousie Springs. Pre Simpson Trip.
5. July 14-20 Simpson Desert crossing.
6. October L/Wend. Whyalla inter club.

This is a big gathering of all 4wd clubs.

More details for all of these trips will be on the trips board at the meeting.

I would like to see some new trip leaders coming forward it is not hard to do and I will help you if required.

Day trips, weekenders or longer trip suggestions are:

Goolwa beach run and on to Deep Creek NP.

Hog wash bend, Mungo NP, Border Track, Salt Creek fishing trip

Any of the 4wd tracks in the Flinders Skytrek, Arkaba station to name a couple

July 14th - 20th Simpson Desert Trip

TRIP FULL

Trip Leader: Trevor Hill 0400676954

Reserves will be taken

Upcoming Trips

Trip	Gawler Ranges - Mt Ives
Date/s – Duration	April 25/26/27 Anzac Weekend
Trip Leaders	Details Trevor Hill 0400 676 954
Convoy limit	
Distance – Kms	600km total Mt Ives is 280 km NW Pt Augusta -
Departure / meeting point & time	To be Confirmed
Radio	UHF
RSVP – deposit	
Special requirements	NEED TO BOOK SITE MT IVES 86481817
General comments	Camping Tent ,Camper Trailer & Accommodation Available Cost \$15/night per vehicle & \$35/night accomod shower & toilet aval

Trip	WallFlat/Monarto Zoo
Date/s – Duration	Weekend 17-18th May Camp at Wall Flat Friday night 16th May Camp Fire and drinks Saturday 17th Mallee/River Drive with Merv Camp at Wall Flat celebrate Shorty's 40th Birthday Sunday 18th Monarto Zoo (if you well enough)
Trip Leaders	Dave Willsmore 0412411751
Convoy limit	No Limit but need numbers to book ZOO By May 12 Meeting
General comments	Porta loo's will be on site

Upcoming Trips

Trip	Bendelby Ranges
Date/s – Duration	June Long weekend 7,8,9th June
Trip Leaders	Donald Ward 0408848734
Convoy limit	7 Vehicles
Distance – Kms	800km
Departure / meeting point & time	Arrive Friday Night Depart Monday Departure Place & time to be confirmed
Radio	UHF
RSVP – deposit	Deposit required
Special requirements	
General comments	Camping: Tent & Camper trailer

Trip	Gregorys Food & Wine Festival Yorke Peninsula between Pt Victoria & Maitland
Date/s – Duration	5 - 6th July
Trip Leaders	Trevor Hill 0400676954 Greig Lang 0414969417
Convoy limit	No Limit
Distance – Kms	500km
Departure / meeting point & time	To be Confirmed
Radio	UHF
RSVP – deposit	
Special requirements	
General comments	Camp at Pt Victoria Caravan Pk (make own booking)

Upcoming Trips

Trip	Dalhousie Springs
Date/s – Duration	July 8 -13th
Trip Leaders	Trevor Hill 0400676954
Convoy limit	Trip Limit 10 vehicles
Distance – Kms	2500km
Departure / meeting point & time	To be Confirmed
Radio	UHF
RSVP – deposit	
General comments	Bush Camping some sites have toilets & bush showers Tents & Well prepared camper trailers

Trip	Weekend in Whyalla
Date/s – Duration	October Long Weekend 4-6th
Trip Leaders	Darren Callary 0404099397
Convoy limit	No Trip limit
Distance – Kms	1000km
Departure / meeting point & time	To be Confirmed
Radio	UHF
RSVP – deposit	
Special requirements	
General comments	Arrive Friday Night Camping All Types Showers & Toilets Available

Four Wheel Drive Courses

MLR Club Training
Contact: Jeff Morgan
Home: 8381 5404
Mobile: 0410 665 019

TRAINING DATES

Basic Training May 24th-25th

For those wishing to learn about 4WDing procedures and how to do things correctly there is a sheet up for basic training. Jeff Morgan will advise about cost, time and location.

Skills Update Course - 3rd-4th May at Morgan

Trip Leaders Advisory Course - Date TBA based on numbers

Trip Leaders

For those Trip Leaders planning trips this web site is good value

<http://www.toiletmap.gov.au>

For those with Garmin GPS's check for your latest updates

<http://www.garmin.com/support/blosp.jsp>

Club Trainers

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.



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 (fleece lined)	\$45.00	
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>		
Arctic Fleece Tops	\$45.00	
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>		
Polo Shirts (short sleeve with Pocket)	\$37.00	(no Pocket \$35.00)
<i>(includes name and logo embroidered on & GST)</i>		
Beanies <i>(including logo embroidered on)</i>	\$13.00	

NEW ITEM

Baseball Caps *(including logo embroidered on & GST)* **\$17.00**

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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| <input type="checkbox"/> Canopies | <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery Equipment | |
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VICE PRESIDENT	Trevor Hill	0400 676 954
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TREASURER	Nick & Sam Bray	0413 019087
ASSOCIATION DELEGATES	Paul West	0405 484 448
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER Assistants	Darren Callary Luke Hooper Gary Sawyer	0404 099397
TRIPS CO-ORDINATOR	Paul Tabone	0417 080663
EDUCATION OFFICER	Jeff Morgan	0410 665 019
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