



**MOUNT LOFTY RANGERS
4WD CLUB**
ABN 83 001 470 077
www.mountloftyrangers.com.au
enquiries@mountloftyrangers.com.au

Rangers' Review



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Photo: Diamonds
Photography
Day, courtesy of
Simone Collas



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Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.

About Us

The Club's aim is for its members to enjoy all aspects of owning and using our 4WDs 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 cooking 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 South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (FWDSA).

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 which also organises regular events that complement 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 for 7.30pm start

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

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

www.mountloftyrangers.com.au

MT LOFTY RANGERS UHF CLUB CHANNEL NO 27



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Presidential Press

Question... "Who are we"? Well to be more specific, "Who are the Mount Lofty Rangers"? That is one of the questions the committee discussed at our last committee meeting. This along with "What do we actually offer", "What is our point of different to other clubs" (is there one), "Why do people choose MLR", "Where do we want to be going forward", "What do we need to do differently" (if anything) made for some interesting conversation. Some of the key words or phrases that jumped out for me included (in no particular order):

- Flexible and informal i.e. not rigid like some clubs
- Family/kid friendly
- Provide opportunities
- Variety
- Value for money
- 4WD Trips
- Members have a say



[Can you think of any other descriptors?]

Needless to say we did have a lot of questions and didn't really have time to discuss them in any detail to come up with the answers. Having said that, the intent is to dedicate a large "chunk" of our next meeting to continuing the discussion and articulating the "MLR Brand" and identifying some actions to improve the club going forward...watch this space.

If you know a PR or marketing person please come and see me.

Thanks to those who contacted me to confirm their email details. It only takes a single letter in the wrong spot to exclude you from the information. Please check the list in this news letter to ensure you're not missing out.

Memberships were due at the end of September. As such the membership team is now reviewing the membership list and will try and clarify who wants to play and who doesn't. By the end of Oct we should have a clear idea of those that haven't paid. These people will be placed on the inactive list and excluded from any club correspondence and activities unless they have a committee agreed plan in place. After all, that's only fair given others have paid for the privilege.

So, please renew your membership, if you haven't done so already.

Our next monthly meeting is **8th Oct** with the next committee meeting being on **22nd Oct**. Hope to see you all then.

Enjoy your long weekend.

Word of the Month:

Lollygag - to spend time in an aimless or lazy way





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YOUR COMMITTEE 2018-19

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT

Gary Light

president@mountloftyrangers.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Grear

vp@mountloftyrangers.com.au



TREASURER

Paul McGregor

treasurer@mountloftyrangers.com.au

SECRETARY & PUBLIC OFFICER

Jo Reed

secretary@mountloftyrangers.com.au



TRIPS COORDINATOR

Trevor Light

trips@mountloftyrangers.com.au

FWD SA DELEGATE

Roger Wilkinson

delegate@mountloftyrangers.com.au



MEMBERSHIP OFFICER(S)

Lothar Dunaiki / Rob Stevens / Marianne Sag

membership@mountloftyrangers.com.au





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YOUR COMMITTEE 2018-19

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WEBSITE OFFICER
Michelle Watkin

webmaster@mountloftyrangers.com.au



MERCHANDISE OFFICER
Sheena Dunaiski

merchandise@mountloftyrangers.com.au



PROPERTY OFFICER
Peter Reed

property@mountloftyrangers.com.au



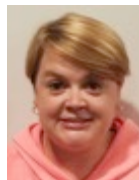
EDUCATION OFFICER(S)
Steve Townsend / Tom Doody

training@mountloftyrangers.com.au



MAGAZINE EDITOR
Kylie Cooper

magazine@mountloftyrangers.com.au



COMMITTEE MEMBER
Craig Watkin

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Neil Stokes



COMMITTEE MEMBER
Paul Parsons

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Kim McCoolle





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YOUR COMMITTEE

Committee members are elected by the members for the members. They are volunteers who kindly donate their time to represent the members interest in the day to day running of the Club, are you:

1. Interested in putting your hand up to help this club get even greater?
2. Not sure what role you'd like or what's involved?

Keep reading for a brief description of each role:

President: - Convenes all meetings of MLR. Meeting with 4WDSA to push the MLR interests. Sponsor Liaison.

Vice president: - Facilitate monthly topic of interest e.g. guest speakers, awareness sessions etc. Becomes acting President when the President unavailable

Treasurer: - Looking after club financials. Sponsor liaison.

Secretary & Public Officer: - Minute taking for meetings. Correspondence in and out.

Trips Coordinator: - Primary point of contact for members trip planning, advice and attendance sheets. Communicates trip calendar to members

4WDSA Delegate: - Attends bi-monthly 4WDSA meetings and is the voice of MLR, also reports back on any relevant information from 4WDSA that affects MLR.

Membership officer: - First point of contact for visitors that come to MLR, keeps track of criteria for membership acceptance.

Website officer: - Looks after MLR website and Facebook administration

Merchandise officer: - Organises clothing and other club approved merchandise for sale to members.

Property Officer: - Looks after club property and trailer, by maintaining where appropriate and lends equipment out to members.

Education Officer: - Organises club training and awareness days. Liaises with 4WDSA Driver Training Unit for wider training opportunities.

Magazine editor: - Collates all material to go into club magazine – photos, trip reports, jokes, interesting 4WD related stories sourced elsewhere. Facebook administration.

Committee Member: - Supports other Officers of the committee, and helps with club events and trips where needed.

If you would like to share your experience and contribute to the running of the club, please speak to a current committee member to obtain a nomination form.



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TRIP REPORT: DIAMONDS PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

Courtesy of Simone Collas

AV, TV, WB, AF, EOS, LCD, AI, P, A, M, S, ISO, SCN, C, QUAL, BKT, WTF
oh of course the menu button, put that together with a Scottish accent and then you have the dialects of Cannon, Sony, Nikon, Pentax, Olympus etc. A completely new language to some of the 14 participants of the photography course. Our instructor, photographer and photographic teacher, Lindsay Poland, through Diamond Camera, understood it all, every button on every camera and every variant. His knowledge meant he could help every individual.

We started with a classroom based lesson, learning about the different buttons, some of us never knew we had nor even thought we would ever use. We learnt the art of composition using the Fibonacci Spiral and other techniques making the object stand out, either having a sharp object in the foreground and blurred background or vice versa.

The second half of the day the 14 of us with cameras around our necks (looking like tourists), went to Hindmarsh Park to learn about black & whites and angles. We had the best weather for the day which made it very pleasant. Then to the red buildings and anything else we could find that was red, as red equals a brilliant black in the world of non coloured photography.

Then on to the arcade to use colour, more black and whites and speeds to make the people in the arcade look like they are moving. Lindsay was able to spend time with all participants to help them with those buttons, plus shutter speeds, time lapse, framing etc.

The last part of the outside section was up to North Terrace and with the permission of the local skateboarders we practiced taking shots of fast moving objects using shutter speeds. All this was using the most manual settings possible to learn what our camera and us could do. We wrapped the day up with a discussion of the day and a few beers.



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Club equipment for loan!

- Grate mates
- Uniden UHF handheld radios
- Tyre repair kit (large & small)
- Tifor hand winch and cable
 - Car Bra
 - Trestle tables, plastic folding 1.8m (x2)
- Recovery bag (inc snatch straps, extension strap, tree trunk protector and shackles)
- Gazebo 3m x 3m
- Hot water urn and kettle
 - Bead breaker
- Drag chains (x 2)

***All club equipment is securely stored within the club trailer @ Lonsdale**

For further information on any loan equipment, please email Property Officer: property@mountloftyrangers.com.au



Windows & Doors

Specialising in ;



- Aluminium windows and doors.
- Sliding, awning, double and single hung domestic windows.
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- Full range of security doors and including "Invisi-gard" security
- Aluminium balustrading.
- Full range of aluminium commercial windows and doors.
- Window and door replacement (not glass replacement)

New homes or renovating. Club members receive 10% discount.

Ph (08) 8268 8808 fax (08) 8347 3152 Email ron@aawindows.com.au



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MERCHANDISE



\$50

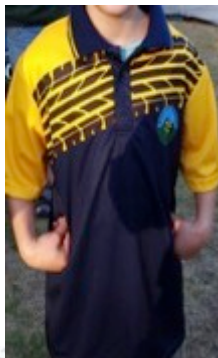
limited sizes - no names

Yellow Tyre Tracks Design

Ladies: 7 shirts in sizes

14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 32

Mens: 3 shirts in sizes 18, 28, 30



Blue 25th Anniversary Design

Ladies: 1 shirt size 26

Mens: 2 shirts in sizes 26, 28

\$50

limited sizes – no names

Sand Flag

\$25 - MLR Sand Flag to be used under the orange flag as required in the Desert Parks, Beachport as well as other places we 4WD like Peake and Morgan.





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MERCHANDISE



Khaki Shirt

We have new khaki shirts with the MLR logo, available for order, either short or long sleeve for \$40.

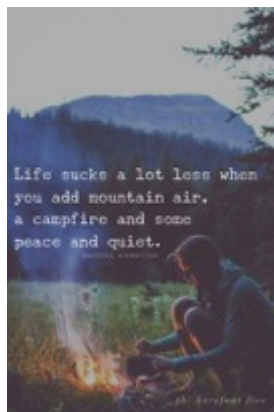
Add name for \$7.

Contact Sheena to place an order:

merchandise@mountloftyrangers.com.au

GUEST SPEAKER

No guest speaker for October Meeting.
Come and enjoy a SOCIAL NIGHT!!!!



For further information or to book a guest speaker, please email
Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator & Vice President at
vp@mountloftyrangers.com.au



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Join us at

THE BELAIR HOTEL

Breakfast from 8am Saturday & Sunday
Seniors \$20 Lunch Special Monday - Friday
Function Spaces Available

BELAIRHOTEL.COM.AU
8278 8777 / 141 MAIN ROAD, BLACKWOOD SA
ADMIN@BELAIRHOTEL.COM.AU



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TRIP REPORT: BRI GLENN

Courtesy of Roger Wilkinson

The weekend weather forecast was perfect, well the Sunday anyway. This weekend away gave us Melbourne weather, wind, rain, hail, blue skies and a chilly night. Wet weather gear and a great campfire took care of all chilly bits.

For those more fortunate, Gary, Marcel and Wayne they headed up Friday afternoon to get the campfire going. Bri Glenn is about 2 ½ hour drive north of Adelaide and is covered in Mallee scrub, this is a private property that the club has been to several times now. There are no amenities here so a shovel and a walk into the bush is required. The wind during the day was quite strong. Nothing like bashing into a headwind for good fuel economy. Once the guys arrived at camp they went on a hunt for an elusive camp spot recommended by Brian the property owner. No joy, and with the light fading headed back to the usual campground. The wind dropped as evening came then picked up again during the night. So much so Wayne was rudely awakened during the night with his awning on his chest. After spending a little time packing that away and setting up alternate digs it was back to sleep.

Part 2 of the trip, Marianne, Tom & Roger met at the Caltex on the dot of 7:30am, next stop is Burra Bakery for breakfast and a coffee. Buzzer, somebody left their wallet at home. I'm destitute can somebody lend me a few dollars, Tom came to the fore and panic averted. Breakfast of champions, a coffee and something from the pie warmer hit the spot and the hips too I suspect.





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TRIP REPORT: BRI GLENN

Arrived at the camp site on schedule at 10:30, perfect timing as day 1 guys were about to hit the tracks. As most of the folks on the trip hadn't been to Bri Glenn before Gary led the way around the property zig zagging around all the tracks, lookouts and mine sites. The only damage for the day was a nice new number plate on said Toyota Hi-Lux, a scar, a badge of honour. We made it back to camp just in time for a little hail and then calm weather. The campfire was cranked up, just the thing to scare away the winds, rain and clouds. As temperatures fell the fire offset any chills.

Pre-dinner nibbles along with a little marinated chook accompanies the refreshments. Everyone has their little thing about cooking dinner, on gas, in a pot or straight out of a can. Either way it filled the spot and made for a content chat around the fire. Sunday was an easy start, get the fire going, get the ice off the camp chairs and get a coffee on. Cook breakfast and it was time for the second coffee. OK, now we'll think about the day's activities. A different route today, follow the creek beds up stream, dry creek beds of course. After making our way to the entrance point of the creek and a drive for a km it was apparent vehicles with no lift would be challenged. The sensible thing was the turn around and find a suitable track, all but Roger. The short wheel base, good approach and departure angles, rock rails along with nice new diff locks made the short cut up the creek possible. The team met up again further upstream and we continued to discover. Following an old gold coach trail brought us to a boundary gate and a road to Burra.





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TRIP REPORT: BRI GLENN

A fun mix of personalities, no pressure and great weather made for a memorable weekend.

Got a text from the owner Brian, the plan from the donations to use his property, is all going to toilets and showers ready to be used 'early' next year. Can only make this location more appealing.

Till next time.





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MEMBERSHIP

**PAY
NOW**

Memberships are due, time to renew

If you haven't done so already, we ask that you please renew your membership today! If you renew your membership prior to the end of August 2018, you will receive a \$10 discount after which the fee increases to \$80. In today's climate this is good value for money. It should be noted that the fee has not changed for at least five years. Don't forget your membership is linked to your vehicle, which means all of your immediate family are also members. By renewing you will be able to:

- attend more trips, see new places, meet new people and share the experiences
- be eligible for Sponsor discounts (with participating sponsors)
- Purchase a wide variety of MLR merchandise
- Have a say in how your club develops.

There are two options available to you for renewing your membership these include:

- Electronic funds transfer:
 - BSB: 065 132
 - Account No: 1004 4806
 - Account Name: Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.
 - Reference on transaction, [name] and membership renewal
(Bendigo bank does not show their customer's name on transfers unless it is in the reference)
- Face to face with the treasurer

Should you have any questions relating to membership I encourage you to direct them to one of our three membership officers via Membership@mountloftyrangers.com.au or alternately any other committee member.



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EMAIL CONTACT DETAILS

It would be greatly appreciated if the following members could verify their email addresses as electronic correspondence “bounces”:

- Luke Coombes
- Barry Brown
- Peter Kluzek
- Paul Lehmann
- Hubert Orbons
- Dan Schultz
- Steve Wrobel
- Jason McKendrick
- John Farrell
- Darryl Crouch
- Ross Wilkins
- Peter Abigail
- Graham Misse
- Guy Richards

Please email president@mountloftyrangers.com.au or
membership@mountloftyrangers.com.au and we will be able to confirm correct details.

Is it your birthday this month???

Come and see Kylie for a drink!





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TRIP: STOCKPORT OBSERVATORY

UPDATE:

This is a last call for those that are interested in coming to the observatory on Saturday 20th October as per copy of email below. Cost is \$40 per person which gets you entry into the observatory and also a BBQ tea, it's BYO drinks. We have a limit of 50 attendees. Please let me know if you'd like to join us or if you now can't make it?

Change of plans for sleeping over as Stockport Caravan Park are unable to cater for all of us. We have changed to Riverton Caravan Park (Corner of Oxford Terrace and Torrens Road, Barrier Highway SA 5422) Phone (08) 8847 2419. It is only about a 20-25 minute drive to Stockport from Riverton.

Powered site for 2A \$30 Unpowered site for 2A \$22. Please call and book your own site, just mention you are with Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club and they will bunch us together where possible. If not a total fire ban we are allowed to have a fire.

They will give us a guide of the night sky (with one of those illegal laser pointers?) and then into looking through the telescope and depending on the clouds etc, one or planets may or may not be visible.

I have organised for them to cook us a "Star-B-Cue", for dinner Saturday evening which will fit nicely as it will be daylight savings. Our meal an Aussie BBQ consisting of (patties, sausages, chicken shashliks, salads, bread, lamingtons, tea & coffee) for \$20 per person. It will be BYO drinks.

Payment for Stockport Observatory to MLR...

Electronic funds transfer:

- o **BSB: 065 132**
- o **Account No: 1004 4806**
- o **Account Name: Mount Lofty Rangers Inc.**
- o **Reference on transaction, [name] and Stockport**

(Bendigo bank does not show their customer's name on account transfers unless it is the in reference)



Get your name on the trip sheet to confirm your spot. Please do not hesitate to contact Tom if you have any queries on training@mountloftyrangers.com.au



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TRIP: BURRA GORGE (WORLDS END)

Paul and Margaret Parsons are going to head up to Burra Gorge (Worlds End) 139 02.588E 33 49.887S on the Tuesday 16th October until Thursday 18th October then head off to Riverton for Friday 19th October ready for the existing Planetarium Trip. Any one is welcome to join them for all or part of the time at the Gorge. They are planning to go into Burra and look around, do some geocaching and spend time relaxing around the camp, drive some of the tracks/roads to see where they go.

Campers need to be self sufficient as there is no power or water, there is a long drop toilet (not sure of the status). Camp fires are permitted but there is no wood gathering in the gorge and possibly along the road verges also so best to bring some wood for a fire if you want one.

If you are keen or want to find out more contact Paul by email at magnum44@ozemail.com.au

2018 SA SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Period	Start
Term 4	Monday 15 th October
School Holidays	Saturday 15 th December

SA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2018

Tuesday 25th December – Christmas Day
Wednesday 26th December – Boxing Day



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TRAINING

MLR TRAINING CALENDAR

Courses to be run by Steve Townsend & Tom Doody:

Sun 14th Oct Recovery & winch training/awareness

8.30am @ Ashbourne

**\$15 to camp at Steve's Sat night. BYO BBQ lunch Sunday.*

DTU TRAINING CALENDAR

26th – 28th Oct Adelaide 4WD & Adventure @ Wayville Show Grounds

- recovery demonstrations

27 th October	Trip planning & leading	\$10	Adelaide Car Club	9.00am
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Annual Professional Development Weekend @ Peake 3rd-4th November

- Professional performance for Trainers/Assessors in alignment with standards in training manuals

3 rd /4 th November	Training	\$45	Peake	9.00am
10 th /11 th November	GPS & OziExplorer		Adelaide Car Club	9.00am

Contact: Geoff Green (Assistant Training Officer DTU) on 0438 874 170 if interested

MLR offers non-stop 4WD education from our trainers:

Tom Doody & Glenn Lawson as well as the assessors: Jeff Morgan, Dave 'Shorty' Willsmore, Mark Curtis and Steve Townsend.

Email training@mountloftyrangers.com.au for more information or to organise one-on-one or group training.



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DON'T MISS OUT!!

Do you need camping kit replaced?

Do you need extra kit?

MLR will be holding a Club night and
Pizzas at "Anaconda" on

Tue 20 Nov 6:00 – 8:00 PM

This is an ideal excuse to do some
Christmas shopping.

The evening will include:

- Pizza (supplied by the Club)
- Exclusive access to the shop
- Discounts for those who attend

If you would like to attend make sure you put your name on the Trip Sheet at the
monthly meetings or contact Gary Light.



Located in: Mile End Home Maker Centre

Address: Mile End Homemaker Centre, 21/121-150 Railway Terrace, Mile End SA 5031



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MLR CHRISTMAS SHOW

Saturday 24th November – why not make a weekend of it and stay the Friday night too. Camping on green grass with plenty of trees for shade and, weather depending, we can have a fire. The facilities are neat and clean. Flushing toilets and a hot shower make it “Glamping” so bring the family! There’s heaps of space to kick a footy or throw a frisbee, trails to walk, a golf course nearby and the coast is walking distance away. You could fish near the marina or launch your kayaks or similar. We’re looking for other activities so if you have ideas or suggestions, please send them through, we might have a navigation challenge like last year, which was great fun according to those who did it. Dinner will be catered on Saturday night – Details TBA. Please make sure to get your name on the trip sheet if you are coming. If you can’t make a meeting, please email trips@mountloftyrangers.com.au. More details on booking sites and cost for accommodation to follow. Feel free to contact me or one of the committee members if you have any questions.
Jordan





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2018 TRIPS CALENDAR

"Put up a trip sheet and people will come"

FRIDAY 28TH – MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER - LONG WEEKEND

MONDAY 8 th October	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Sunday 14 th October	Training Day	Steve Townsend	Recovery & winch training & awareness
<i>Recovery & winch awareness & safety training – Sunday. Option to camp Saturday 13/10. Bring BBQ meat for BBQ lunch on Sunday</i>			
Fri 19 th – Sun 21 st October	Weekend trip	Eric Kalderovskis	Loveday Park
<i>Camping on river bank & drive 4x4 tracks around Lovely 4x4 Park</i>			
Saturday 20 th October	Day trip	Tom Doody	Stockport Observatory
<i>Saturday night looking through telescope. \$20pp for observatory. \$20pp for Star-BQ. Staying at Riverton caravan park</i>			
MONDAY 12 th November	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Tuesday 20 th November	Club night	Gary Light	Anaconda
<i>Club night @ Anaconda. Xmas shopping! Wish list making! Discounts on the night and pizza.</i>			
Sat 24 th – Sun 25 th November	Xmas Show	Jordan Ray	Wirrina
<i>MLR Annual Xmas Show. Day trips. Catering TBA.</i>			
TBA November	Weekend trip	Eric Kalderovskis	Feed/swim with Tuna @ Victor Harbor
<i>Tuna feeding/swimming @ Victor Harbor – cost approx. \$120</i>			
MONDAY 10 th December	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
TBA April 2019 School Holidays	Extended trip	Tasman Hunt	Uluru (Ayres Rock)
<i>Walk up the Rock for the last time. Truck Museum in Alice Springs</i>			



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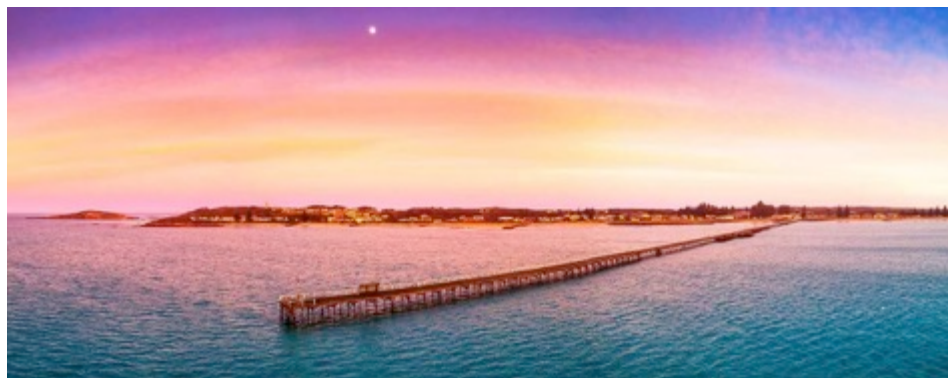
2019 TRIPS CALENDAR

2019 TRIPS

Fri 25 th – Mon 28 th JANUARY	Long Weekend	Gary Light	Beachport
<i>Dress up party! Day trips to Carpenters Rocks for hot chips! Wander the main street of Robe, visit the ICECREAM SHOP!!!! Local wineries. And lots more.</i>			

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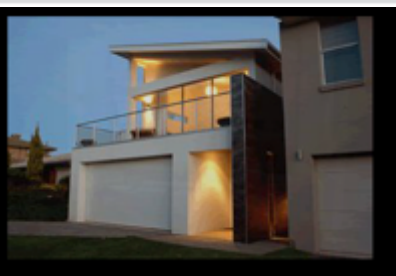
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- Always friendly and supportive consistently helping others
- Continued fundraising efforts
- Volunteer efforts for the betterment of MLR
- Behind the scenes support



NOMINATION FORM MLR Quiet Achiever Award

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NAME OF NOMINATOR:			
<small>Nominators contact details:</small>			
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MOBILE :		SIGNATURE :	

CRITERIA CITATION (attach one additional A4 page with font size not less than 10 points if required)

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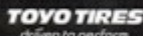
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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 4

African Trip – Week 4- by Neil Stokes and Pam Wheare

As we left Ihaha Campsite in Chobe National Park to head for Kasane, we found ourselves on the wrong road to hopefully pass the lion on the beach we had seen twice on previous days. As we did a U-turn we found the sun was then in the right direction to spot our first leopard sitting by a tree (we had 2 brief sightings previously). As we drove the edge of the river we saw crocodiles, elephants and buffalo before heading inland to see giraffe, zebra and antelope, all in large numbers. As we stopped for morning tea we heard a call on the radio to get ourselves to the end of Bushbuck Drive with our cameras ready. Others had spotted a lion kill. There were 9 lions and 3 cubs around a large male giraffe they had brought down earlier. With an obvious order in dining, there were some lions sitting sunning themselves with full tummies and others patiently waiting their turn. The tour buses had all heard of the action and were there in large numbers with cameras shooting. It was sad to see the remaining giraffe family still milling around the site more than 36 hrs after the kill.





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As we left the area we drove along the Chobe River, again seeing many varieties of animals. Spotting a large group of hippos we braked and reversed yet again. With window down and camera ready, suddenly a leopard walked right beside Pam's side the car, within metres of the door. WOW! Only the driver could not see what the excitement was about, so he stood on the running board without any luck until he spotted it high-tailing out of sight behind the car. We then put Kasane on the GPS and headed for the lodge and car hand over. Little did we know that the GPS sent us on a no through road – but the male elephant knew and stood his ground in the middle of the road!!! After 3 attempts to pass we did the 10 km detour around, through the park gates and into town.





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The Chobe Safari Lodge was the first night in civilization for 4 weeks. A quick shower and evening cruise finished the day with more hippos and elephants seen swimming and eating and yet another leopard sighting stalking an antelope and climbing a tree, much to the excitement of the people on board. We missed the sunset, but there were many glorious sunsets on the trip. This was our last official dinner together, as we enjoyed a smorgasbord along with the odd ale or two. Thanks were expressed to Lothar and Sheena for their incredible efforts to arrange and coordinate the trip.





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After a restless night with closed windows we were off to the border crossing. We were glad we had a guide and were not driving a truck as they seemed to be lined up as a road block. On arrival in Victoria Falls, everyone had different activities to do. We did the sunset cruise with a bottomless wine bottle, next day was a flight over the falls and a tour of the falls and then the 113-year-old bridge which was an amazing engineering achievement of the day. We were able to experience the mist created by the falls and also see the expanse of waterfall. A BOMA Dinner and African drumming was a cultural experience. We went on a village tour to see how a family lived. Their water was carried from the river 5km away and there was no electricity. UNESCO had provided solar to the village chiefs a few years ago so that mobile phones could be charged and a radio could provide some news of the outside world. A night tour of the falls allowed us to see a lunar rainbow- only visible in 5 sites around the world and at Victoria Falls only on 3 nights, 4 months a year, as at other times there is too much mist or not enough for the effect. We also did an elephant ride where the elephants were rescued as babies after a 5-year drought, about 25 years ago, when they were abandoned by the herd. There are now strict controls on their use in the tourist industry. The rhino safari was in a private park which started with 3 rhino about 8 years ago and they now have a herd of 12, along with many other varieties of animals. Poachers are a constant threat so close to the border of the country, so the animals return to a compound near the buildings each night for their safety. Many of the group shopped in the markets and bartered for items to bring through customs. It was hard to determine what might be acceptable but Tom and Neil managed to carry home wooden babies!! The boys selling were very keen to make a sale, as were the many walking the streets with items to sell. Many coffee shops were tried, but the Bridge Lookout Café and the Victoria Falls Hotel were agreed to have the best views along with delicious food. It was an experience to learn about the troubles in Zimbabwe- cash is almost non-existent. It was not available to visitors at banks and locals had to line up for hours to hopefully get \$50. Many jobs are tourist oriented and on 3 mth contract with maybe a month extension, if good weather encouraged more tourists.

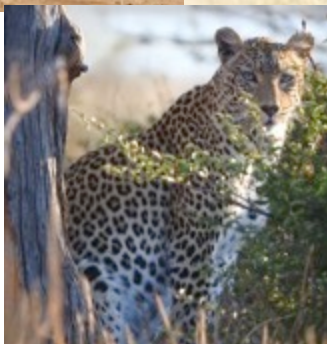
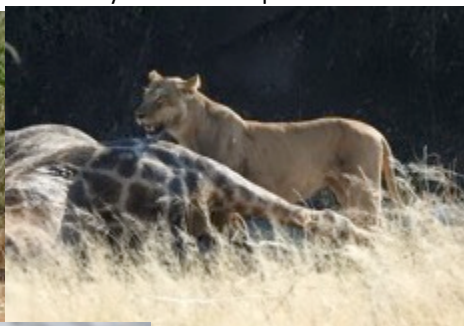


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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 4



The last few days saw everyone venture off on more river canoe adventures or head for the airport after an amazing trip off the beaten track in Africa. Thanks to Lothar and Sheena for taking a group to experience this adventure and sharing their love of Africa and to Paul for researching some out of the way Namibian experiences.





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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 5

Courtesy of Trevor & Lynn Light

2018 Africa Trip Week 5 - Canoeing the Zambezi River

After about a day and a half with everyone at Vic Falls we (Trevor & Lynn, Lothar & Sheena) bid farewell to our fellow travellers and hopped on a little 6 seater plane for our flight from Vic Falls to Kariba.... The start of our final leg of our Africa trip.



Trevor, Lynn; Sheena and Lothar ready to board our charter to Kariba....exciting!!

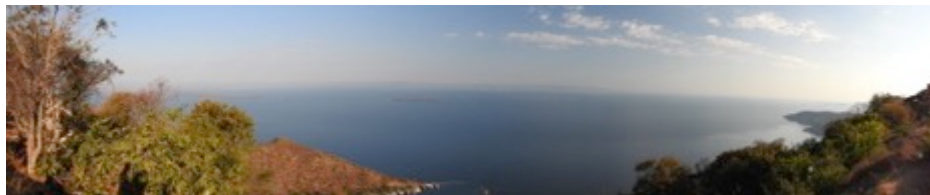
The flight took us downstream along the Zambezi from Vic Falls and over Lake Kariba; to the town of Kariba where we had an overnight stay prior to the start of our canoeing adventure the next day.

With an afternoon of free time we organised a tour of the dam at Kariba. Lake Kariba is a man made lake the size of which is simply mind-blowing for us from Oz.



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View overlooking the massive expanse of water that makes up Lake Kariba

The lake which borders both Zimbabwe and Zambia is used for hydro-electric power generation. The outflow from the power stations on both Zim and Zambia sides provides the flow down the mighty Zambezi we were to paddle for the next five days



Downstream of the dam wall – Lake Kariba. Zambia to the left; Zim to the right.
Start canoeing 8km downstream.



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For those statistically minded here are some facts and figures of Lake Kariba you might find interesting.

- Lake Kariba is the world's largest man-made reservoir by volume, four times as large as the Three Gorges Dam.
- 223 kilometres long and up to 40 kilometres in width.
- covers an area of 5,580 square kilometres.
- storage capacity is 185 cubic kilometres.
- mean depth of the lake is 29 metres; the maximum depth is 97 metres
- dam wall height 128m
- power generation of over 1600mW

After a fabulous stay at the Hornbill Lodge overnight the following day we met our guide Norman for a briefing then off to the shops for some last minute supplies (beers & Amarula for us while Norman organised the food!) before making our way to our launching point about 8km downstream from the dam wall. The other crew for the trip (back up guide KK and a new starter Kenneth) were already on site with canoes and gear. It didn't take long to load up the food etc we picked up, a safety briefing and paddling tutorial and then we were ready to hit the river!



Our crew (KK,
Norman &
Kenneth) doing
the final
preparations .



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At this point we wondered if we might have been in for a bigger adventure than we initially thought when we saw Norman casually strapping on a 0.44 Magnum!! After some careful quizzing we found out that Norman with over 20 years' experience on the river had never had need to use the weapon and we all started to feel a little more comfortable.



Norman (complete with his 44 magnum) and the girls ready for action!

A typical day on the river panned out something like this.....

Up before sunrise, the boys had the kettle boiled for the morning coffee and a biscuit. Pack up camp while the boys cooked brekky of bacon, eggs, beans, sausages etc (or sometimes we took off straight away and had brekky later). A couple of hours of paddling and then we stopped for a break (brekky or snack).



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Norman and the boys cooking up some brekky.

Back into the canoes after brekky for another couple hours of paddling before stopping for a lunch break and afternoon siesta for a couple of hours.



Siesta time after a nice lunch....a chance to re-charge before the final leg of the day.



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Then a shorter paddle for the last leg into camp.



Typical camp....sometime we had to share with some of the local wildlife.

Dodging hippos and crocs during the day was almost a full time activity and Norman our guide was very careful to ensure we didn't get ourselves into the wrong place at the wrong time. With all his years of experience he knew where the hippo pods were likely to be and could spot them well in advance (mostly!). Some he knew on a first name basis but with names like Mad Max this did make us a little uneasy at times. Crocs were less of an issue happy to get out of our way but the number around did at times make you a little uneasy.

This was to be typical of our routine for the next 5 days.



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Highlights of the trip.

Day 1

We kicked off the trip by negotiating some rapids; nothing big but enough to get the heart pumping after no more than 5 minutes in the canoe.

The gorge down from the starting point below the Kariba dam wall to 'Rocky Island' was spectacular. Magnificent mountains and jungle down to the rivers edge on both sides before opening up suddenly just before our overnight camp



The gorge below the dam wall made for spectacular paddling!

Paddling up close to pods of hippos some of them less than 20m from the canoes really got the heart beating and the butt cheeks clenching!



Some of the many hippos; making sure we didn't get too close!

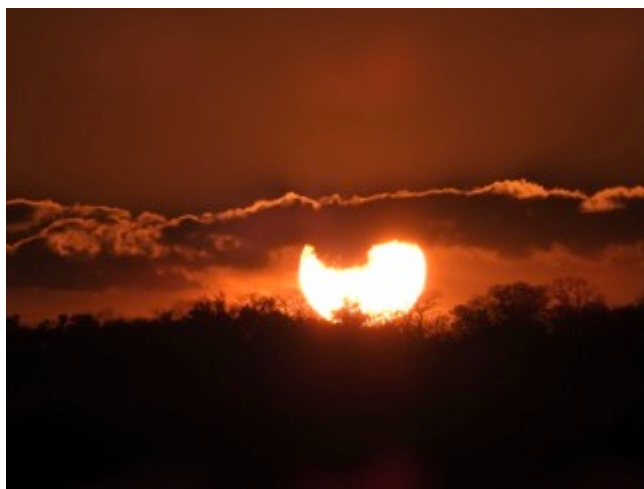


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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 5



Zambezi River sunset and full moon over the river.





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Camp on day one on Rocky Island; a section of the river where it split into multiple channels leaving an islands in the middle (typical for the river from day 2 on)
Listening to the chorus of hippos all night...so cool!

Day 2

Trevor and Lynn hit a submerged log in the river and took on a bit of water. After a Norman inspection of the canoe for damage on shore we were good to go again.
Highlight now its over and all was ok!

Saw 3 lioness patrolling along the river bank. Very unusual for them to be in this part of the park and a first for Norman after 20yrs on the river...we felt very privileged.
Plenty of hippos; Norman at times standing up in his canoeing slapping the water with his paddle to keep them at bay.



Camp on a beautiful flat island we named 'Sandy Island'; lots of hippo, croc and elephant tracks but no visitors overnight!



Evidence the
locals had been
on our island!

Saw our first fire flies out at night flashing their tail lights....very cool!



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Day 3

Lot of hippos again...had to stop at times to let them cross before we could continue.



The river from Chirundu (reasonable sized town and border post between Zim and Zambia) down started to get busier with boat traffic and wasn't as 'remote' as it had been up to now. Interesting but in a different way. Soon started to get more rural as the day went on.

Wind came up in the afternoon making paddling a little more challenging.

Camp was at an island we named 'Muddy Flats'; another lovely spot despite the name!



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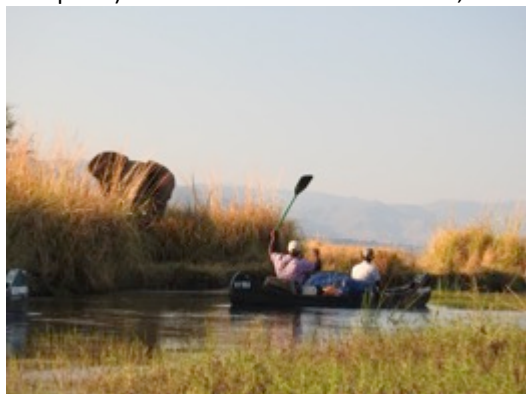


Pulling up to camp at the end of the day.

Beautiful starry night again.

Day 4

Paddled for a while this morning before stopping for brunch and a longer siesta. Norman took us down a magnificent narrow twisty little channel he knew...absolutely amazing to do. Saw elephants, warthogs, hippos and a lioness on top of a bank no more than 20m from the canoes (waiting to ambush impala that cross the channel at that point) as well as lots and lots of birds; a definite highlight.

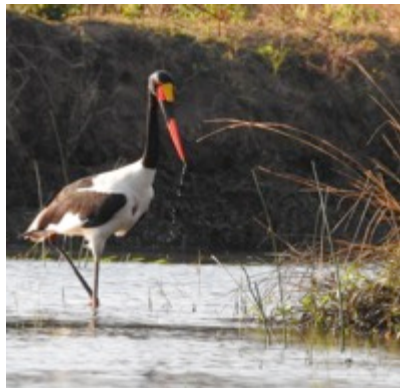


Norman trying to calm down one of the excited locals.



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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 5



Banded Stork

Camp for the night on 'Elephant Island'. Named after we found we had 3 elephants on the island joining us that night.

Getting up close and personal with an elephant after dinner watching him graze on an acacia tree in the moon light.

Not such a highlight when he decided we were too close and made a run at us. Luckily for us KK the guide was able to calm him down. When we looked the next morning he was 12m from us when he stopped!!

Day 5

Elephants came wandering into camp again before we left.

One gave us a good send off just as we were pushing off the canoes; charging right to the top of the bank in front of us flapping his ears and shaking his head and kicking up a cloud of dust with his front foot as is to say 'on your way people'!



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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 5



Flock of flamingos past overhead; very unusual for this area apparently; Norman hadn't seen them on the river before.

Having to dislodge the croc off the point where we wanted to land for lunch.



Usual hippo dodging!

Pulled the canoes out at Mana Pools and camped at the camp ground there; paddling all done.



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TRIP REPORT: AFRICA WEEK 5

Day 6

Transfer to our pick up point this morning to be picked up by the Tafika Lodge boat. Did some game viewing along the way (elephant, eland, lion) and visited a couple of the four pools that make up Mana Pools (lots of hippos and even more crocs!). Mis-communication between lodge and canoe people meant the pick up was delayed but all worked out. Boat broke down about 3 km out from lodge after driver had hit a log on his way to pick us up. Subsequent vibration caused a retaining nut to come loose and we ended up losing drive and having to wait for a tow! Luckily they had an esky full of drinks on board so it wasn't all bad!

Wonderful overnight stay at the Gombe Lodge very luxurious accommodation in an idyllic setting; great way to finish off the trip.

(<https://www.facebook.com/GombeRiverLodge/>)



The rescue party has arrived!

Gombe River Lodgevery, very nice!

Tomorrow we start the long trip home; what a fantastic end to an amazing trip.

Huge thanks to Lothar and Sheena for all the time and effort put in to organise the whole trip not just this final leg.



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