



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

Rangers' Review



FANTASTIC PANORAMIC PHOTO FROM CELEBRATION OF 4WD AT BIRDWOOD

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Presidential Press

Following on from my last magazine article re change, I stated I was in the process of changing jobs. Well as at the time of writing this I am no longer a servant of the SA Govt and as such, my full-time role as President of MLR since Easter also ceased (*tongue in cheek with a sprinkle of truth*). You may have noticed fewer emails from me over the last couple of weeks. Now that I have a full-time role, I must now become a part time President due to the reduced amount of time I can dedicate to the club (*like everyone else on your committee*). Once I have established a new routine and re-established new communications channels e.g. emails and phone numbers this may increase. For those trying to contact me during the day please be patient as I now work in a facility that for various reasons doesn't readily enable me to respond as quick as I would like.

Next, I would like to apologise to Kevin Jesshope as I forgot to welcome him to the committee as the new webmaster in my last article, welcome Kevin.

At the committee meeting held last Monday, the committee discussed the possibility of including country/remote membership and veteran membership as part of our offering. There was significant discussion and a couple of actions allocated essentially seeking further information prior to any potential proposal being presented to the membership for endorsement.

Re membership, don't forget memberships are due. If you have renewed already, I sincerely thank you for your ongoing support. Sorry you won't get an individual thankyou from me this year (see my first para).

Please note a few trips you should be aware of:

- Rescheduled **camp cook** @ Steve's (more info in the magazine)
- We now have a date for the **Octoberfest firewood collection** weekend. I think I sent an email to everyone asking for help to collect wood. The date is now locked in as w/e 24/25 Aug a trip sheet will be avail at the next meeting for you to express your interest.



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Presidential Press

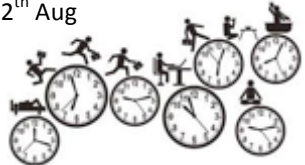
- **Octoberfest** please check out our website and provide your support by registering to attend. A great deal of effort has been put in to organise this event in a new location by a large number of individuals.

One final thing before I sign off, don't forget Octoberfest raffle books and funds are to be returned by COB Fri 9 Aug. Raffle gets drawn on Mon 12th Aug

Next Meetings:

Next monthly meeting is **8th July**

Next committee meeting **22nd July**



Word of the Month: ***Routine** - a sequence of actions regularly followed.*



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YOUR COMMITTEE 2019-20

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT

Gary Light

president@mountloftyrangers.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Gear

vp@mountloftyrangers.com.au



TREASURER

Paul McGregor

treasurer@mountloftyrangers.com.au

SECRETARY & PUBLIC OFFICER

Ann/Malcolm Morris

secretary@mountloftyrangers.com.au



TRIPS COORDINATOR

Trevor Light

trips@mountloftyrangers.com.au

FWD SA DELEGATE

Roger Wilkinson

delegate@mountloftyrangers.com.au



MEMBERSHIP OFFICER(S)

Rob Stevens / Marianne Sag / Steve Brown

membership@mountloftyrangers.com.au





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YOUR COMMITTEE 2019-20

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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EDUCATION OFFICER

Steve Townsend

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MAGAZINE EDITOR

Kylie Cooper

magazine@mountloftyrangers.com.au



COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ian McFarland

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. MLR club registration officer

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 officers (1 lead & 2 x assistants): - First point of contact for visitors that come to MLR, keep track of member attendance at club meetings and criteria for membership acceptance, welcome visitors and link them with a buddy, run the club night raffle and pay for any birthday drinks.

Website officer: - Maintain and update 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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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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TRIP REPORT: LADIES BORDER TRACK

Trip Leader: Gary Light

When: 17 - 19 May 2019

Where: Ladies focused 4x4 activity to the Ngarkat Conservation Park / Border Track. Ngarkat Conservation Park features mallee and heath land, extending across 270,000-hectares of remnant coastal dunes.

The Border Track is a narrow, sandy track that follows the border separating South Australia and Victoria.

Trip Report: Sue Peake

Photos: Courtesy of the participants

Participants:

Anne & Malcolm Morris & Alby - Isuzu

Gary Light – Prado

Marianne Sag (Lefty) – Patrol

Marianne Wright (Righty) – Hilux

Sue Peake & Les Toomer – Prado

Friday 17 May 2019: We made our own way to Baan Hill Reserve (south of Lamerook) and set up camp for the night. The weather was fine and we had the camping area to ourselves. We spent an enjoyable evening socialising around the campfire.

Saturday 18 May 2019: We packed up camp, departed Baan Hill at 8.30am and travelled to the OTR Service Station at Pinnaroo, for a comfort stop and to fuel up, before travelling to Scorpion Springs to air down.





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TRIP REPORT: LADIES BORDER TRACK

It was then onto the Border Track. We had a morning tea break at Hensley Trig, where we also had a great view over the Conservation Park. Later we stopped for a lunch break by the side of the track. Then we continued south along the track and Gary guided us over the sand dunes. Sometimes second attempts were required but we all succeeded. A few of the dunes had mesh.

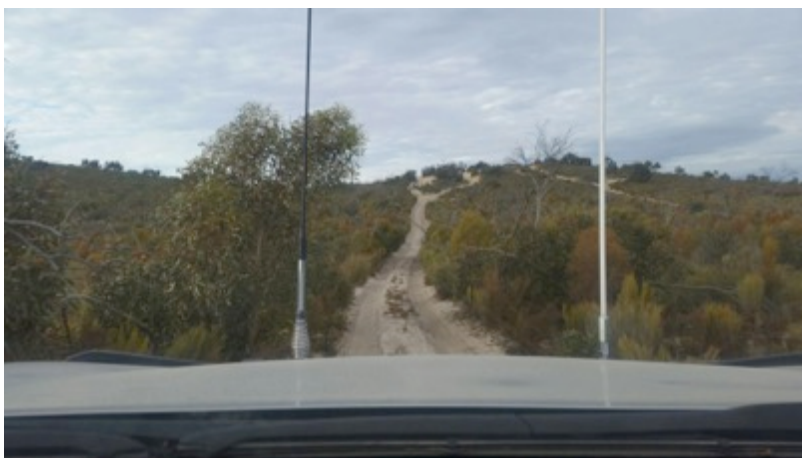
We arrived at Red Bluff, in Victoria, at around 2.45pm and were the first group to arrive and set up camp. It became quite busy, with 20-30 vehicles and people still arriving in the dark. We had plenty of time for Happy Hour and conversation around the campfire.





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TRIP REPORT: LADIES BORDER TRACK





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TRIP REPORT: LADIES BORDER TRACK

Sunday 19 May 2019

We packed up camp and departed Red Bluff at about 8.00am. We continued south on the track and encountered more sand dunes and then clay pans. Then we had the opportunity to drive through some mud holes.





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TRIP REPORT: LADIES BORDER TRACK

We aired up at around 10.00am and headed to Keith, via the Emu Flat Road.

The trip ended at the Henry & Rose Café, in Keith, where we had a coffee before everyone made their way back to Adelaide. We were fortunate that it did not start raining until we arrived at Keith.

We appreciated Gary's guidance and encouragement and it was a very enjoyable weekend. Thanks to Gary for organising the trip.





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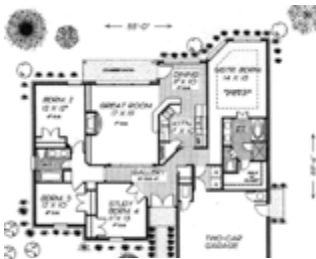
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MLR ANNUAL CAMP COOK

MLR Annual Camp Cook 13 July 19

Our annual camp cook is on again... so dust off the utensils and pans, dig out the old recipes and come along and share the numerous dishes provided by the talented closet chiefs among us.

For those that aren't aware, all we do is provide a dish to share which has been cooked on site in any way you choose, that may be on your gas burner, a frying pan over the fire or the good ole camp oven, it's up to you.



- **When** – Saturday 15 June 19. We typically aim to start serving food from around 6pm so plan your arrival time accordingly.
If you would like to make a weekend of it you are welcome to head up on Friday evening.
- **Where** – Steve's Place @ Ashbourne
855 Ashbourne Road (2nd gate) Strathalbyn - Look for the MLR Flag





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MLR ANNUAL CAMP COOK

- **Cost** - \$20 per vehicle (pay Gary when you sign in) for Sat night.
- **Accommodation** - caravans, campers, tents swags etc all permitted.
- **Facilities** - are limited, however, two toilets will be available.

If you haven't placed your name on the trip sheet you can still attend by contacting Gary via president@mountloftyrangers.com.au

Please note - Safety is a priority, there will be a designated area for camp oven use and fire extinguishers on site



Steve T's grandson helping with camp cook fire prep!



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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 2019, you will receive a \$20 discount after which the fee increases to \$110. In today's climate this is good value for money i.e. renew early and its \$90.

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 (incl subsidised activities)
- be eligible for Sponsor discounts (with participating sponsors)
- purchase a wide variety of MLR merchandise
- be eligible for reduced registration for qualified vehicles
- 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 account transfers unless it is the in 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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TRIP REPORT: CELEBRATING 4WD

NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM BIRDWOOD

MAY 18TH/19TH 2019 Written-Steve Brown

Photos-Neil Stokes, Steve Brown & Roger Wilkinson

Well with 15 clubs displaying 102 vehicles attending the Celebrating 4wd'ing event, it was going to be quite a spectacle to say the least. Adding to that speakers like Doug Sprigg, who co-owns Arkaroola and is the son of Reg Sprigg who crossed the Simpson the (first time) without tracks to follow. Kristin Weidenbach author of the Tom Kruse (the outback mailman story). Helen Hamp (Tom Kruse's daughter) also spoke...amongst others. One of the main attractions was 'Roothy' who most would know from 4wd Action, Low Range and other DVD productions and many written publications who told a few yarns but was there for a much more important task. He actually drove his venerable old Toyota 40 series 'Milo' there from QLD to donate it to be on permanent display at the National Motor Museum.





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TRIP REPORT: CELEBRATING 4WD





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TRIP REPORT: CELEBRATING 4WD

We were there to set up not long after the 10am set-up start time. MLR Vehicles were Roger - Jeep, Steve - Toyota 60 series, Kevin - 150 Prado, Neil and Pam - Nissan Patrol with TVan, Pete - Nissan Patrol. Hey, Tom was even there for Saturday evening as well before leaving us to camp for the night in various swags, camper and tent. There was much interest from the public and 4wd'ers in our vehicles and it was great to see some of the other rigs on display which ranged from old to new...swags to vans.

We have two new champions in the club....both Roger and Pam won two first prizes (in 2 sections) in the Damper completion. Well done guys! Also Pam was like the Pied Piper with the kids as she and Neil provided marsh mallows and sticks for the kids to experience toasting them over the coals. 'Talk about how to win friends and influence people!' Once again well done guys.





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TRIP REPORT: CELEBRATING 4WD





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TRIP REPORT: CELEBRATING 4WD

For meals we had organised to provide certain dishes/courses as a group feast. Neil and Pam provided Crayfish, smoked Salmon, cheese and crackers for happy hour. For mains Steve did a camp oven Beef bourguignon, Roger a camp oven Asian inspired chicken dish and Pete did a camp oven dessert. In the morning Kevin provided Eggs, bacon, Mushrooms, tomato and hash browns. Invariably all of which were lovely and flavoursome. Boy we do it tough when we camp!.... apparently that's what some people think, Little do they know! Thankfully the weather held out until about 3pm on the Sunday when the heavens opened up and meant we all had to dry our gear out over the next few days (at least it was good drying weather)

All in all it was a great advertisement for 4wd'ing with great camaraderie amongst the different clubs and individuals attending.
Well dome MLR team, we can all be proud of our efforts.





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GUEST SPEAKER

JULY MEETING –

Social evening! Bring a plate of food to share with your table!



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

2019 SA SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Period	Start
School Holidays	Friday 5 th July
Term 3	Monday 22 nd July
School Holidays	Friday 27 th September
Term 4	Monday 14 th October
School Holidays	Friday 13 th December

SA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2019

Monday 7th October – Labor Day
Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day
Thursday 26th December – Boxing Day



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Register your attendance at: www.mountloftyrangers.com.au/octoberfest-register
Registrations close Sunday 30th August 2019



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



MORE TO FOLLOW


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Don't Miss Out...Buy your tickets now!

**4WD OCTOBERFEST
2019 RAFFLE**



1ST PRIZE - 'SOLAR'
REDARC SSFI150 Solar Blanket
REDARC SRPA20-VP Solar Regulator
\$364.87

2ND PRIZE - 'BCDC PAC'
REDARC BCDC1225D In-Vehicle Charger
REDARC FK40 Fuse Kit valued at \$249.11

3RD PRIZE - 'TOW-PRO PA'
REDARC EBRH-ACCV3 Tow-Pro Elite Brake Controller valued at \$350
CBK30-EB Circuit Breaker Kit valued at \$9.10

TICKETS \$5 EACH

REMINDER: All books, unsold tickets and funds raised should be returned to Gary Light prior by **COB Fri 9 Aug** so we can draw the raffle winners on 12 Aug

0001

2019
The
Raffle

**THE PO
RED**

1000 tickets @ \$5 each. Raffle to be drawn at Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club gear shed at 7:30pm at the Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood, SA. Winner published on the Mount Lofty Rangers 4WD Club website (mountloftyrangers.com.au)



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MERCHANDISE

Sand Flag

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



To place an order contact:

merchandise@mountloftyrangers.com.au

Is it your birthday this month???

See Kylie or a membership officer for a drink!





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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



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TRIPS CALENDAR

“Put up a trip sheet and people will come”

Postponed to June/July	Park support Day trip	Tom Doody	Onkaparinga River – Park Support
<i>Tree guard removal from Onkaparinga Gorge via 4WD access on fire tracks through NP. Free camping. Pink Gum Campground (Sat night). Reasonable fitness due to steep</i>			
MONDAY 8 th July	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Sat 13 th – Sun 14 th July	Camp Cook	Gary Light	Ashbourne
<i>What secret recipe do you have to cook and share all from your camp oven/bedourie \$20 per vehicle to camp on Steve's property.</i>			
Sat 19 th – Sun 21 st July	Weekend trip	Gary Light	Big Desert (Vic)
<i>Camp 'Big Billy Bore', drive the sand trails & hills in the state forest. NB camper trailers – only if you are prepared to drag them through sand.</i>			
Sun 28 th July	Day trip	Steve Townsend	Trip planning
<i>Meeting 9am at Pik-a-Pie – Meadows to Goolwa</i>			
MONDAY 12 th August	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Fri 23 rd - Sun 25 th August	Annual Fishing Trip	Eric Kalderovskis	42 Mile Crossing
<i>Beach camping & fishing</i>			
Sat 24 th – Sun 25 th August	Park Support Weekend trip	Tom Doody	Fleurieu - Park support
<i>Trail/Track trimming in Fleurieu Parks. Vehicle access to fire management tracks. Stay tuned for camping details.</i>			
Sat 24 th – Sun 25 th August	Reccie Trip: Firewood collection	Gary Light	Merna Mora



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TRIPS CALENDAR

"Put up a trip sheet and people will come"

MONDAY 9 th September	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Sat 5 th – Mon 7 th October	Club event	Gary Light	Merna Mora
~ Long Weekend ~ Octoberfest event ~ Cost \$80 – trips range from free to \$60			
Sat 12 th – Sun 13 th October	Day Trip	Steve Brown	Yankalilla to Cape Jervois
Lions Club led groups via farm land. Camp @ Wirrina			
MONDAY 14 th October	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
MONDAY 11 th November	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Sat 23 rd – Sun 24 th November	MLR Xmas	Kylie Cooper	Wirrina
Dinner provided on site by Golden Roast Catering – 3 choices of meat, 8 salad/veg options, bread rolls & icecream for dessert!			
MONDAY 9 th December	Club Meeting 7.30pm Blackwood Football Club, Trevor Terrace, Blackwood		
Fri 24 th – Mon 27 th Jan 2020	Annual club trip	Gary Light	Beachport
Sand driving, icecream, wine tasting,			

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

June/July 2020	Extended trip	Eric Kalderovskis	Simpson Desert
East to West			



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TRAINING

MLR TRAINING CALENDAR: MLR offers non-stop 4WD education.

Courses to be run by Steve Townsend –

Trip Planning

28/7 Meadows to Goolwa
Meet 9am at Pik a Pie

DTU TRAINING CALENDAR: -

Mud Driving / Training - **22-23 June @ Ashbourne 9am start**

- \$50 per vehicle



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



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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (1)

Courtesy of Auburn McIntyre and Dewi Morgan.

PEAKE TRAINING TRIP May25-26th: STEVE TOWNSEND.

Having attended 1 meeting of the Mt Lofty Rangers, the AGM at that, Dewi and I were warmly welcomed by Marianne and encouraged to attend the sand driving course at Peake.

Several emails later, directions at hand and new caravan behind we headed off through Strathalbyn up the freeway towards Tailem Bend. As weathered had delivered much needed rain there was some discussion that surely the rain would peter out as we continued. We wondered if people may have been put off and if we might indeed be turning back to Adelaide ourselves that same night.

Arriving at Peake, making the left hand turn, opposite the pub towards the huge radio tower we checked to see if we were at the correct farm gate. Steve was close behind so we waited and followed him past the farm to the area designated for sand driving.

Already set up and waiting were Phil, Richard, Marcel, Lyndley, Merelyn and Tim. Importantly there was a great under cover shelter. Steve off loaded an extraordinary amount of wood for a camp fire. During a heavy storm we ate our lunches and listened to Steve and Phil explain the program. I started to learn about “bulging walls”, diff locks and “reading the sand”.

After lunch, radios in tow we set off. It was my first trip in sand dunes. OMG, as the kids say. Terrifying and exhilarating all in one go. I am sure the veterans found it slightly less challenging but they put up with us learners all the same.

Only 1 in our group had sand tyres, the rest had road tyres I think. I can now “spot the difference!”. Sand tyres have tread up the side of them as well as around them! Marcel, being smart had already lowered his tyre pressures but good ol’ Steve needed us to try a little bit of sand driving with street pressures. I, for the first time in my life, released air in a tyre. I even learnt to do it with a twig! I admit to being a tad scared even putting air into tyres in case they blow up.



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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (1)



We tried several loops, the hubby did well and no one got bogged except Phil. Of course it was planned! We watched and learnt about “snatch straps”, bridles, standing 20 meters away as spectators, in case the strap breaks under tension and flies at great speed towards you. We heard about the 7 lives in 24 hours of a snatch strap and how to wash it in the caravan laundromat!! And yes, Richard did rescue Phil successfully...or should that be “...Pichard did rescue Rhil..” as the camp fire story goes?



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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (1)





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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (1)

It was camp fire time after a few failed attempts at the hill in the photograph. What a fire that led us into a night of great food, wine and port. Those storage boxes for port glasses are a great idea Lyn.

As the night wore on, there were magical green lights in the gum trees, an emu in the sky and many problems solved. Importantly no rain and a gloriously warm fire to watch.

Next morning, more sand challenges awaited. Phil took the boys to the “bigger stuff”, but Steve had other plans.

At the AGM, Marianne Sagg had talked to us about a women’s weekend and a club aim of enabling more girls to gain confidence 4WDing. My mum was really anxious travelling after dad had his heart attack “in case”. It had affected their travel plans and her mental health. I know I need to be confident driving and towing, even just to give the “other half” a rest break. Steve had asked Lyn and me the day before if we wanted to drive. We had agreed tentatively to “give it ago”. It would have been so easy to go do the “big stuff” with Phil and Steve and let the boys do all the driving again.

However, Steve was keen, so off Lyn and I went off with him. My first 4WD, no less.

Poor Lyn, in the back seat, being bounced and tossed about as I floored it over bumps up hills, and through ruts, overcame my terror of drops offs at the top of sand hills, getting over wanting to brake going down a “track” I couldn’t even see, worried the car might flip, spin or whatever. SO glad I went first Lyn!! So glad I gave it a go Steve!! So want my daughter to give it a go as well!!

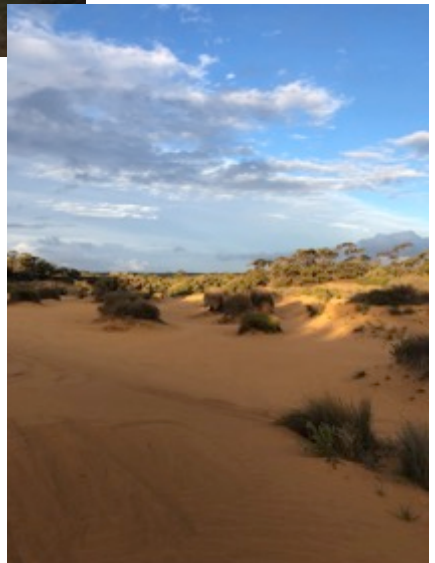
What a morning: the car was great; Steve was great, (and so encouraging). I have a new respect that the other half does (maybe), sort of, know what he is doing. I am still not sure about that “thing” we need for better ground clearance (*Lift Kit*) or those new tyres though.



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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (1)

Most importantly I was encouraged and had a go so thank you to all on the Peake trip. We both had great fun. It felt safe and I felt confident. I look forward to doing it again.....slowly and carefully. Dewi is looking forward to washing and cleaning the car. Some things a man's gotta do.....xx





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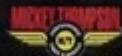
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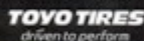
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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (2)

Courtesy of Lindy

Saturday 25th May we Lindy, Tim, and Melinda, our youngest daughter, left Summertown, caravan in tow and heavy rain coming along for the ride. We drove out of the rain by Murray Bridge, and arrived at Peake and set up our camp.

Steve, Phil, Marcel, Richard, Auburn and Dewie were already there. Everyone went off driving in the sand with a lot of fun and success achieved by the guys. Of course, someone had to get “bogged” and needed retrieval, so we learnt how to attach the bridle, snatch strap and to stand well clear. Only three people should be involved in retrieval, the two drivers and the co-ordinator. After our evening meal, sitting around the campfire, thanks Steve, and sharing wine and a port or two Steve suggested that the ladies accompany him one on one in the morning to learn about sand driving. Melinda doesn’t drive, but Auburn and I jumped at the chance.





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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (2)

The guys headed off in the opposite direction and Auburn took first turn learning how to navigate the sandhills, and observe the conditions. Was the sand soft and deep, or firm? As it had rained a bit the sand was fairly good to drive on, but enough of a challenge to make it interesting and a lot of fun. After half an hour or so, we went back to camp and it was my turn to hit the track. As I had already had the advantage of listening to Steve, and seeing how well Auburn had managed, I was ready to go. It was a lot of fun, and I certainly learnt a lot about how to read the conditions, and to trust the car to just handle the terrain. We learnt a lot and appreciate the benefit of having the chance to learn from someone who really knows what to do, and how to explain it all. It was a great weekend.





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TRIP REPORT: PEAKE (2)





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TRIP REPORT: MERNA MORA

Courtesy of Rob Stevens

June Long Weekend Octoberfest Reccie trip

Trip leader: Paul McGregor

Attendees: Paul, Jenny, Les, Sue, Henry, Don, Graham, Steve, Marianne, Tom, Paul, Margaret and Rob

On the morning of Friday preceding the June long weekend, three cars and four van plus car combinations set off from the Caltex, Bolivar soon after the scheduled departure of 830 am. They had been waiting for the trip report author.

The traffic going north was light and we made a first stop for coffee at Red Hill. On this side of the ranges, the recent rains had greened up the countryside. But rain had not fallen further north, and the countryside dried out as we started to climb into the ranges north of Pt Augusta. The road followed the old railway and discarded sleepers were regularly spotted, until we found a convenient pull over where we could collect sleepers for the next few days cooking fires.

We lunched at Emily's Emporium in Quorn. I'm told the food was good and I can vouch for their coffee. Much of the interior that was present when the emporium was functioning had been preserved including the wire and pulley system used to transfer money before the days of EFTPOS.

After a brief stop for fuel at Hawker we headed for Merna Mora station – not to be confused with Mern Merna station which we passed on the way north. Registration at the station is located near their motel and bunkhouse style accommodation and the campsite is about half a kilometre from registration. For one bloke, the fees for three nights were \$50 and that also gave access to flushing toilets and hot showers. We camped in a tree lined dry creek bed just up-stream of the Octoberfest site. We arrived mid-afternoon with plenty of light left to set up camp and stoke the cooking fire. Paul and Margaret had come earlier and were already set.



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TRIP REPORT: MERNA MORA

CAMPSITE MERNA MORA



Every nightfall, iron pot chefs would gather round the fire and port and muscat tastings would follow on from dinner.

Unfortunately, the Merna Mora track to Lake Torrens was closed due to very dry conditions and so on Saturday morning we made start at a civil time for Rawnsley Station where we paid our \$50 a car to access the Arkapena track. For the first couple of hours, the track stayed in the lower reaches of the ranges. Following lunch, we made for another section of the track that climbed through native pines to gain good views of the ranges and provide us with some low range 4WD. The tracks had been graded since the last rains and the morning track was suitable for AWD vehicles with moderate clearance. It wasn't crowded and we only came across one other party. Graham joined us back at camp on Saturday afternoon.

CLIMBING ARKAPENA TRACK





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TRIP REPORT: MERNA MORA

LUNCH STOP AMONG THE PINES



On Sunday, after some discussion about whether the party should split and explore different tracks, everybody decided that the Sunday trip would be focused on exploring Mt Little station. The station owners we keen to have us visit and gave us free run of the tracks on the station. We headed for the Mt Little track so that we could get elevation and a station overview. This track was suitable for low range, high clearance 4WD's and the driving was enjoyed by all. After descending we explored the camp sites, camp kitchen and finally the luxury restroom where one of our party lingered longer than our leader and her driver.

COMING DOWN MT LITTLE





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TRIP REPORT: MERNA MORA

We tried two other tracks, Yellow Valley and Rocky River (I hope I've remembered the correct names). The first was introduced to us by the station owner as the track which he had chickened out on. Red rag to the Lofty Rangers 4WD bulls. We had an enjoyable hour or so stepping up the hill and then trying to follow the creeks into the ranges. We returned to camp mid-afternoon with plenty of time to stoke the coals for more iron pot cooking.

On Monday most of the party started home reasonably early, but a few stayed on to head further north; some even long enough to see the first rains that this area had this season.

IT RAINED FOR SOME WHO STAYED ON





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Votes can be submitted at any time of year for members acknowledging how much they are valued and appreciated, recognising their important (often behind the scenes) contribution to the fabric of MLR. This is an award presented to those special people who go out of their way to do things for others, not because they want recognition but because it comes from their heart to give and serve others. Quiet achiever may contribute in numerous ways including:

- 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

NOMINEE NAME:			
NAME OF NOMINATOR:			
Nominations contact details:			
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