



Trails & Tribulations...

So, here we are at the end of another great outdoor year. We have seen great things this year, yet also experienced many issues in and around our industry. One of the highlights for me this year was the launch of the Echo Kavango All Terrain Caravan, yet on the contrary it was sad to see the demise of the ever popular Brakhah Offroad Caravan.

All the regular magazines in the industry certainly went from strength to strength, and this was reflected in final bumper issues at year end. They still remain the unofficial mouthpiece of the 'industry', at the forefront of launches, new products and events. Thanks to SA 4x4 and Leisure Wheels for their support this year, and we look forward to another focused journalistic effort from them all next year. I have a pile of Weg, Go, getaway, Caravan & Outdoor, SA 4x4, Drive Out, Leisure Wheels, Planet 4x4 (UK) and Planet Offroad (UK) mags to consume this Christmas Holidays (only a week and a bit away for me!)

Another highlight of the year was the club winning the Bridgestone Fundi 4x4 Challenge's Spirit Award. We long follow a motto of Winning is not everything, but Competing is. This was certainly the case in the first year of this well structured, discipline and well run competition for standard vehicles. News is that the 2008 competition is already fully subscribed, so watch the press for results and articles from March 2008. We got great articles featured in the SA 4x4 this year. This competition has certainly brought a lot of fellowship between 'unknown' competitors which has really been great.

On the competition scene, it is sad to note the horrific accident which happened during a recovery scenario, down in the Vaal during November. Photos have been distributing on the internet, which depicts the final result of a shackle and rope which crashed through the stuck vehicles windscreen. The photos depict the driver walking away from the scene and we thank God for that. There are various views about this, but the biggest one is the issue around skill and discipline. One can NEVER recover from points on a vehicle, not attached to the chassis for recovery, unless professionally fitted. Standard tow balls should never be used.

I am happy to report that the organised structures are investigating the incident, so as to feedback to industry what its position is on the matter and we await their feedback. This type of activity further spawns the process in the industry, which is driven by the NOW process – we must get ourselves organised and avoid any potential sanctioning by Government. However, you can lead a horse to water, but you can not make it drink! Where to from here, well that is an interesting discussion between several parties on the www.now.org.za website. Maybe, before it is too late, you should voice your input there.

While in London last month, I discovered a bit of the international (UK / Europe) scene. They certainly do not 4x4 the way we do (as a club), but concentrate a lot of the obstacle type scene. However, two interesting things were discovered by me. Adverts for our local produced products such as Front Runner – made me proud to be a South African, and the other interesting thing I discovered, that they have a regular insert in some of their magazines for 'country routes – described via GPS Waypoints and some basic instructions. So drivers basically take a ramble into the country side, and then leave the road, follow a little path, maybe through a river / forest

etc. and then back on the road – different to our organised trails here – but then again, in the UK, space is basically a problem.

We had an excellent year training this year with all courses filled to capacity. The quality of our courses are unparalleled in the market and we will continue this trend in 2008.

What lies ahead for us as South Africans that are major for the next few months and years? Well certainly the looming elections and speaking of a new Government as splashed in the papers today (Sunday Times). Should this happen, will we get a new Environmental minister and how will this change things? Then we have to see delivery on the self regulation front and the NOW initiative. Then, before we wipe our eyes out the 2010 tourist boom will be here. All of these things could and will have an effect on us South Africans. Be prepared. But probably the biggest challenge for the immediate future is the Petrol price and the Interest Rates – us owners of fuel guzzlers, are certainly feeling the punch!

However, not all is doom and gloom – our advertisers are still running great trips in 2008 – check them out. Our club is visiting Angola under Koos Moorcroft and riding the Luderitz to Walvis Bay during 2008, with a planned December 2009 visit to the Serengeti. Cannot wait – these are some of the great things we have planned outside of our busy year calendar.

Well, a shorter, briefer newsletter for review as the year slows down to a halt. We will be venturing down to the 'drowned' Sedgefield area for the holidays, and will see if we can complete the Knysna Forest trip with Bhejane over Christmas (see article within). Seems like a 'rustige' run into some of the back areas of the world renown forest.

Finally, any advertisers who are interested in advertising either in the newsletter or website please send me an email and we can take it from there.

Any product owner / marketer who wants to present at our meetings, or any suggestions on products / services etc., please also drop me a line. Our last meeting of the year had in excess of 230 enthusiasts in attendance. What better exposure than that?

OK, drive safely this holiday period and be safe. See you in 2008!

Yours in 4x4ing.
Alan Goodway (GP 1796)
Editor (voluntary!)



**Seasons Greetings from
4x4 Offroad Adventure Club**

TOURS FOR 2007/2008 – PRESENTED BY WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM

Herewith details regarding the planned tours for Africa proudly presented by WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM and the [SERENGETI TEAM - ALEX AND ALTA](#)

2007

Namibia Tour: 14 – 31 Dec 2007: From North to South– 10 vehicles

2008

Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 4 May – 4 June 2008: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles

Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 1 July – 31 August 2008: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles (60Days)

Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 7 Dec – 7 Jan 2009: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles

Please come and visit our walk-in Eco Shop in Silverton on the c/o De Boulevard & President streets from the 1st of March 2007

Kind regards

Alex & Alta - 0825706010 or alex@eco4x4africa.com

January 2007

Hit the Trail – NEWS, FEATURES and the REST...

NOW – YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

NOW WEBSITE UPDATED - THERE ARE ONLY 40 DAYS LEFT TO ADD YOUR VOICE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SELF-REGULATION STRATEGY FOR THE OFF_ROAD INDUSTRY.

THE FINAL SELF-REGULATION STRATEGY FRAMEWORK WILL BE PRESENTED TO MINISTER VAN SCHALKWYK (DEAT) IN JANUARY 2008.

Please Visit www.now.org.za and P A R T I C I P A T E!!!! Also see the AAWDC section of this newsletter.

NOT ONLY 4x4ers WILL NEED LICENCES – BOAT OWNERS TOO

The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) is the body that controls the use of boats on the sea, estuaries and on inland waters. They designate the authority to provide training for Skippers Tickets and issue those tickets.

SAMSA recently decided that the boating rules that apply to estuaries and tidal rivers will now also apply to inland waters and rivers. All skippers of powered vessels must be licensed and the vessels must be registered and contain the required safety equipment.

The scale of applying and enforcing these new rules has dictated a phasing in period and to this end SAMSA has set a two year period of grace starting from January 2008.

LATEST LEISURE WHEELS NOW ON SALE

Leisure Wheels is going monthly next year, and this is the last of the bi-monthly issues. So the promise is improved quality and fresher news, especially on the new model side.

Our cover story in this issue is the Spirit of Africa event, and we also let you in on rally maestro Sarel van der Merwe's sand-driving secrets. We follow the Voortrekkers on the Sekororo 4x4 route, and brave the Cape of Storms elements to tell more about the Overberg. There is part two of intrepid adventurer Mike Slater's Mozambique trip in a Honda CR-V, while we found the secret of negotiating the Namaqualand 4x4 route: Just don't panic!

Road tests include the Jeep Patriot 2.0 CRD, the Land Rover Defender 110 SW and the new Volvo XC70 D5, while the new model spotlight falls on Toyota's latest Land Cruiser 200, Nissan's Grand Livina and the facelifted Isuzu KB Series and Prado.

Managing editor Jannie Herbst travelled all the way to Las Vegas to report on the SEMA Show, the US' biggest and best, and we tackle the Sani Pass in a Kia Sorento.

4X4 Insurance have many pitfalls, and we give you the right questions to ask your broker or insurance company, and in a summer holiday feature the accent falls on Echo 4x4 Centre's products.

The weekend tinkerer has more tips for those wanting to modify their 4x4s, while Francois Rossouw has a fine example of how ingenious bush mechanics can be, miles from civilisation.

Regulars include new goodies on the shelf, news snippets and our comprehensive Buyers Guide. Enjoy!

BUY YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC 'WINDBAG' CAR WINDOW BEANBAG – BEST PRICE!

This gadget is a fantastic tool for all travel photographers, amateur or professional. The new and improved **Wind-bag 'pro'** is a beanbag concept that slides onto your car window and gives you a solid platform on which to rest your camera.

The base is made of sturdy Perspex that tightly grips the window and provides an 8,5cm surface. A suede beanbag is attached with Velcro, making it easy to remove. It can also be used as a conventional beanbag or pillow for a travel companion's bony shoulder.

It retails for under R200 until the end of the year only, and is available from 4-buy-4 direct store.

Email 4buy4direct@mweb.co.za for the best price around town

**A BRAND NEW CATALOGUE IS AVAILABLE WITH GREAT NEW BOOKS, CD BOOKS,
ESSENTIAL RECOVERY GEAR (TYRE TAKKIE!), VHF RADIOS AND MORE.....
Email for a new edition now!**

See what this customer had to say:

Dear Charmaine,

We have just returned from a 10 day camping trip in the Kgalagadi Park, which was my first good opportunity to try out my WindBag. I am so impressed with it.....it made life so easy. Quick to place and wonderfully firm and convenient. Thank you.

Sincerely, Lynne Hunter, East London.

REPORT YOUR WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Dear friend,

A new website has just gone "live". Please **share what you've seen...** Your Wildlife Sightings can make the difference. National Parks like Kruger Park, Pilanesberg, Kgalagadi, Marakele, Etosha and many more. We welcome you.

Happy Sightings
Wildlife Sightings
<http://www.wildlifesightings.co.za>

TRAVELLING TO LESOTHO – TAKE NOTE!

Dear all,

It is that time of the year again when the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation will be conducting a peak survey at various border crossings with South Africa. The exercise will run from December 07 – January 08. The Corporation appreciates your assistance during the previous exercises and kindly requests the similar cooperation for the upcoming survey.

Regards

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WILD NEWSLETTER #1 RECEIVES RAVE REVUES

Wow, thanks to all those people who took the time to write in with comments on the first issue, we were overwhelmed by the rave reviews. No doubt you'll be glad to hear that the second issue of *Wild* is on its way to you as we speak. We've worked hard on improving on our first issue and we hope you enjoy it.

In this issue you'll visit Mapungubwe National Park, investigate the secret lives of cheetahs, join legendary climber and botanist Ed February in the Cederberg, get a little island fever paging through a conservationist's scrapbook, entertain the kids with six wonderful pages and more.

If you do not receive your magazine by the end of October, please let us know by e-mailing us on wildeditor@tipafrica.co.za with 'Wild 2 Missing' in the subject line. Please include your correct postal address and your Wild Card number in the body of the e-mail.

We are working hard to make translations of our kid's pages available in all of South Africa's official languages on our website www.wildinafrica.com.

Currently we have downloadable PDF versions of these pages in isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans and (from issue 2) seSotho.

If you would like to know more about this initiative or would be interested in sponsoring, or helping drive this programme forward, please email the editor on wildeditor@tipafrica.co.za

OFF THE BEATON TRACK – NOVEMBER 2007

Hello Valued Guests and friends. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your continued support over the past season, we enjoyed having you here.

Well, at last I can say that the spring is here. I know that it officially starts on 1 September, but those of you that were here around that time, will agree with me that spring had definitely not sprung yet. From 28 September, for a week on and off, we had the most amazing rain. A total of 125mm (mostly soft, soaking rain punctuated by heavy thunderstorms.) The result is that the harsh, desolate windswept moonscape of two weeks before has been transformed into a fresh; dust free Tuli Game Reserve again.

It only started showing signs of going green a week later and at the moment everything is exploding into various shades of greens and other spring colours. The fresh crisp mopane leaves are gradually covering all the bare branches, the ground is once again covered with a green mat of plants and the most spectacular of all, are the dazzling bright yellow Mopane pomegranate shrubs (*Rhigozum zambesiicum*) in full flower.

On Sunday 21 October, the day after our boys retrieved the William Webb Ellis Cup at the Stade de France, I went for an early morning drive and found myself driving through a sea of green and gold. The devils' thorn plants had suddenly come into bloom –a dazzling mass of green and gold, it was almost as though the veld was also celebrating the Springbok's triumph!

I think the early rain has fazed all the migrant birds, and as yet, the only spring bird I have heard is the Klaas' cuckoo and that has only been once so far. Not even a Red chested cuckoo yet! Talking of early rain, this is the first time in 22 years that rain has fallen in these parts in September. These early rains were fantastic and will help a lot if we get follow up rain. As usual though, they caused their usual bit of pandemonium. A couple was staying at Mohave camp and were temporarily marooned as the Mohave River came down in full flood. We had to postpone two groups' bookings and suggest to another that they leave early as to avoid being stranded here.

We have had an exceptionally busy season, the busiest by far since we have been here. Trails picked up very nicely, we averaged two trails a month since March. I sincerely hope that all of you that participated on trails enjoyed it as much as I did.

The Elephants, as usual top the scoreboards with the number of sightings and the usual excitement and adrenalin rushes that often goes with them. Late one afternoon in August, I was on my way home from Mohave camp and stopped to look at a herd of elephant moving towards the Motloutse River from the dam. Initially I saw a herd of about twenty, within minutes the twenty turned into two hundred, approaching me like a wall. It was awesome - this mass of elephant in a cloud of dust silhouetted by a magical sunset. I just sat quietly and let the whole aggregation move around me on their peaceful, contented march.

Lion sightings have definitely become more regular. Recently, a large male spent the night at Mohave camp and gave Gregor and Ulrich Maurach some interesting viewing for two days. I went to have a look at him on one of the afternoons with our dogs. He had been lying close to Mohave all day. When we got there he was still where he had been in the morning. We watched him for about twenty minutes, until he decided to get up. To our amazement, he got up and walked straight towards our vehicle – which started the dogs barking at him. He is obviously not fond of dogs and immediately crouched down on his belly, started growling at all of us and flicking his tail from side to side. With Lion bait in the vehicle and a hungry lion eyeing us out just before darkness fell, I decided that discession was the better part of valour and we moved on home.

There have also been some great sightings of Cheetah. They seem to really thrive here. At the moment we have at least 12 in our area – 2 females with 5 cubs each. They are mostly seen in the region of the dam and around Mohave camp.

Of late, we have some good concentrations of Zebra, Wildebeest and Impala.

One of the most interesting sightings I have ever had was a few months ago, between Musth and Mohave camps. I was driving along and suddenly saw what at first appeared to be a huge beehive on the ground; it seemed to be moving though. I stopped and then saw four jackals milling around this seething mass. The beehive turned out to be a group of banded mongooses. The jackals had been harassing them and they couldn't escape, so rather than run, they all grouped together and climbed on top of one another, individuals moving from the top of the pile to the bottom and moving around in circles giving the impression of being one big body in motion. The writhing pile was about 600mm high by about 400mm at the base. The jackals were visibly uneasy at this mass of mongooses that only moments early had been individually chasing in separate directions. Once the mongooses separated, the jackals swung back into action – giving chase. Same story again, the mongooses were still too close and felt threatened and formed the beehive defence again, getting the same uneasy reaction from the jackals. Eventually the mongooses opened the gap and escaped the reach of the jackals, who I think, had lost nerve with this intimidating mongoose behaviour. I have never seen this kind of behaviour before, but it is logical, as a lot of mammals, reptiles and birds make themselves look larger than they are to try to intimidate their enemies. If anyone has seen this kind of interaction before please let me know. I'm most interested to hear what the circumstances were.

We have teamed up with Adriaan Louw (a former colleague of mine from Kruger National Park days) to offer a Tracking Course over four days – the routine being very similar to our four day Wilderness Trail. Adriaan is a highly respected and most qualified tracking instructor, a fascinating person to learn from and great to spend time with. Contact us if you are interested in learning more about tracking.

Our regular Wilderness Trails resume from 27 March 2008 and we have some places available on the first trail, so please let me know if you are interested in joining it.

Well folks, that's about it for now, I could carry on writing about what goes on here as there is so much to tell about our Tuli Game Reserve, but I'm sure you don't have the time to keep on reading.

Once again, thank you all so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Regards
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ROADSIDE ARREST ON OUTSTANDING FINES

The LAW SOCIETY OF SA has currently appointed a group of attorneys to deal with this flagrant transgression of the law; for further info on which attorney are taking on cases like these, please call Hester Bezuidenhout 012 338 5872 who will assist.

Know your rights

The traffic/metro police are doing random roadblock checks. They will also feed your registration into a computer that will show up if you have any outstanding fines. Know your rights.

If you get stopped for outstanding traffic fines - really important for all drivers: Make sure that everybody gets this message.

The Jhb Metro Police, Cape Town Metro Police and other traffic cops have recently developed the nasty habit of locking people up for unpaid fines. These road blocks are typically only happening in and around more affluent areas where their "hit rate" will be higher on traceable entities, with more "fixed" abodes when, as we all know, primary daily offenders in their mini busses literally get away with murder because the cops are too scared to root them out of the townships, or the justice system has no means of putting them over a barrel like the majority of "soft" citizens.

They can only arrest you if:

1. They have the original warrant for your arrest there with them. A copy isn't good enough, saying it's at the station isn't good enough either. They have to show it to you there and then (if they have it, check plan "b").
2. They have to prove that you received the summons in person. It either had to be delivered to you in person or you had to collect a registered letter from the post office (if they cannot prove you personally received the relevant summons, the warrant of arrest is not legal either).
3. If you do get stopped and they want to arrest you, demand to see the warrant and proof you received the summons (i.e. your own signature on the document when delivered to you).
4. If they don't have it, the arrest is illegal. Refuse to go. If they still arrest you inform them there and then you will press charges against them for illegal arrest (record everything that is said to you, as well as the chronological procedure of events in detail). These details may well stand you in good stead for a strong case.
5. Technically, if your arrest is illegal, the taking possession of your car by the police and its driving thereof while you are in custody may also constitute theft.
6. When you are released, go to the SAPS immediately and lay a charge against the arresting law body and relevant official.

*** MAKE SURE YOU CARRY YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE WITH YOU!! ***

INFORMATION NOTICE TO SAVRALA MEMBERS

The information below was e-mailed to one of our members and is being shared with you. Until we resolve our legal issues related to Traffic Fines and the arresting of car rental companies proxies, please can you notify your staff and proxies of this information supplied below:-

Copied and supplied to SAVRALA MEMBERS by Wayne Duvenage, General Manager (SAVRALA) Cell: 0836766203

LAMMERGEYER OR BEARDED VULTURE

Gypaetus barbatus ("Bearded Vulture-Eagle"), is an Old World vulture, the only member of the genus *Gypaetus*. It breeds on crags in high mountains in southern Europe, Africa, India and

Tibet, laying one or two eggs in mid-winter which hatch at the beginning of spring. The population is resident. The Bearded Vulture has been successfully re-introduced into the Alps, but is still one of the rarest raptors in Europe. Though considered a single species, there are distinct differences in size and markings, between the northern and southern races. Like other vultures it is a scavenger, feeding mostly from carcasses of dead animals.

It usually disdains the rotting meat, however, and lives on a diet that is 90% bone marrow. It will drop large bones from a height onto a favourite rock to crack them to get smaller pieces. Its old name of Ossifrage (or Bone Crusher) relates to this habit. Live tortoises are also dropped in similar fashion to crack them open.

There is a legend that the Greek playwright Aeschylus was said to have been killed in 456 or 455 BC by a tortoise dropped by an eagle (lammergeyer) who mistook his bald head for a stone. In South Africa, scientists estimate that the entire Southern African population is currently as low as 400 birds and is declining at a rate of 2% per year. This concern has led to a number of projects to try and quantify and mitigate the threats to this population. The 5th of September 2006 saw the successful release of a Bearded Vulture back into the wild. Bernard, as he is affectionately called, was rescued in June 2006 from the jaws of a gin trap. Since then he has been treated and rehabilitated through the efforts of raptor expert Ben Hoffman from Raptor Rescue and vet Oliver Tatham from the Hilton Veterinary Clinic.

Together with KZN Wildlife Ecologist, Sonja Kruger, who has been liaising with Bearded Vulture experts in Europe, the team deemed him fit for release this week and decided to release him in the Swartberg area, where he was initially caught. In order to obtain better information on this species, it was decided to mark Bernard with wing tags and to fit him with a tracking device which uses cell phone technology to download GPS coordinates of the bird's location. Bernard is the first Bearded Vulture in Africa to be marked using wing tags and to be fitted with a tracking device of this kind.

More recently in August and September 2007, a satellite tracking project, in collaboration between KZN Wildlife staff, the Bearded Vulture Task Force of the Endangered Wildlife Trust and European experts was initiated. Through Sonja's European contacts, satellite transmitters and one GPS solar powered satellite transmitter were obtained. Fitted to three young birds the satellite data shows that the three year old male is ranging widely across Lesotho. The two year old female has certain favourite roost spots and makes the occasional long distance trip into unusual areas, whereas the one year old female is restricting her movements to a narrow section of the KZN Drakensberg escarpment. Since then the male, Daniel, has continued in a similar wide ranging pattern. The transmitter on the two year old female has stopped functioning and there are plans to recapture her to repair it. Spanish biologists are monitoring the data from the one year old.

RHINO FLATTENS 'PAPARAZZI' CAR

19/11/2007 23:33 - (SA) Nurene Jassiem, Die Burger

Addo - A rental car being driven by two "paparazzi" has proven to be no match for an enraged black rhinoceros. Hans Reedjik and his wife, Jannie, of Hoeksche Waard in the Netherlands, were on a weekend game drive in their rental car in the Addo Elephant Park when they spotted the rhino.

But, said park spokesperson Megan Bradfield, when they stopped to take a photo, the rhino must have thought they were bothersome paparazzi, and charged. "The rhino stomped on the bonnet and gored the windscreen a few centimetres from the woman," said Bradfield.

Having greeted them in such dramatic fashion, the rhino then did an about-turn and disappeared into the bush, much as if it was all part of a day's work. Professor Graham Kerley of the Nelson

Mandela Metropolitan University said the attack was not unusual, although it was the first of its kind in the park.

Rhino not injured

"This is typical behaviour, because they're mammals with an aggressive attitude," he said. The tourists were not hurt in the incident and it appeared it had not spoiled their fun. They got another vehicle and continued their sightseeing. Police, who also were quite philosophical about the attack, said they had to wait until the tourists had finished a second trip before completing the accident report.

A police spokesperson said none of the park's rangers appeared to think the event was out of the ordinary, either. The parks board confirmed on Monday that the rhino had not been injured.

SECRETS OF THE KNYSNA FOREST DAY TRIP

Only R350 per person including a meal

Hope this finds you all well and gearing up for the festive season. As some of you may already know - [Bhejane](#) has recently been awarded another concession down in the Southern Cape by SANPARKS in the new Garden Route National Park. So for those of you vacationing down along the garden route during this season, come and join us for an unforgettable day trip deep in the [Knysna Forest](#).

The Knysna forests conjure images from Dalene Matthee's well-read stories, phantom elephants, Italian settlers and lost travellers. Bhejane 4X4 Adventures have recently obtained permission to explore this forest realm of giant yellowwoods and ancient lichens. This highly protected ecosystem, that holds many secrets, has been off-limits to anybody, other than those prepared to tackle the forest paths on foot or by mountain bike. We invite you to join us on a professionally guided 4X4 self-drive exploration of the Knysna forests to unlock some of the forest's best kept secrets.

The Adventure

Meet your Bhejane representative and community guide at the Garden of Eden on the N2 between Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. After a meet and greet, safety briefing and distributing of two-way radios, we are on our way. Our route takes us into the Diepwalle Forestry section, the area where the Knysna elephants are believed to frequent the most. Please note that this route is off limits to anyone other than SANParks and forestry vehicles. Our journey continues through tunnels of yellowwoods, Cape Chestnuts, Stinkwoods and bracken ferns as the guides share their wealth of knowledge with you. Discover the intricacies of these forests, the lichens, fungi and pristine streams.

Much of the intrigue of these forests lies in their history, from the early Italian settlers to elephant hunters and timber harvesters. More current anomalies include the 7-year disappearance of a helicopter, recently discovered. Included in the day trip is a traditional meal prepared by caterers from a local community at the Diepwalle Forestry Station.

Our trip ends in the late afternoon at the historic church museum at Gouna, just above Knysna.

Just a reminder to check our [website](#) for next years exciting tour dates. Hope to see you soon and wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas season.

Regards

The Bhejane Team.

MAHINDRA CELEBRATES THREE YEARS IN SA

Mahindra is celebrating its third anniversary in South Africa and has grown significantly since its establishment in October 2004. Since then, the company has sold a total of 8500 units and expanded its footprint to 45 dealers across the country.

Mahindra SA is a majority owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra of India, established in 1945 to assemble the Willys Jeep under licence. Mahindra products have become well known internationally for their rugged reliability and cost effectiveness.

Unlike most imported brands Mahindra SA has benefitted by leveraging on the strength of its Indian parent company and their 62 years of motoring heritage. Mahindra products are market dominant in the segments in which they compete in the huge Indian vehicle market. The company's vision is to further establish its base in South Africa as M & M view the country as a strategic hub for African development.

Mahindra's local line-up comprises 15 model variants that includes the well-known Scorpio SUV, Scorpio Pik-up and Bolero ranges. Aimed at a unique breed of customer who, whether for work or pleasure, chooses an affordable yet quality, accessorised vehicle that is perfect for local operating and road conditions.

This year, Mahindra also entered the agricultural sector with the introduction of its first tractor model in South Africa. This versatile tractor boasts four-wheel drive with a 48.4kW, 4-cylinder, wet-sleeve engine which generates exceptional performance, fuel efficiency and reliability. Mahindra is currently the fourth largest tractor manufacturer in the world and the first tractor manufacturer to attain two international prestigious awards for Total Quality Management. Additional models will be introduced to the country in the months to come.

The company also introduced Mahindra Financial Services this year in partnership with ABSA, which offers complete vehicle finance solutions to customers. Mahindra has had a long and proud history in the financial service sector, ever since the establishment of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Service Limited in 1991 in India. Today, it is one of the largest non-banking finance companies in India with an asset base of over R8 billion and over 350 branches spread across that vast country.

The introduction of Mahindra Financial Services forms part of Mahindra's robust plans for South Africa and the rest of the continent to launch new Mahindra products and businesses in South Africa in the future.

Mahindra also plans to reintroduce the Mahindra Legend to South Africa. Built to celebrate 60 years of Mahindra Automotive, the Legend is a retro-looking yet comfortable lifestyle vehicle based on the original jeep concept and reflects the proud heritage of the brand. The Legend is likely to be launched in both an entry level as well as upmarket models. The Legend is set to make an impact in a unique segment of the market.

Mahindra & Mahindra is globally recognised as one of the leading private sector companies in India, and is a market leader in India's utility vehicle segment despite having to compete with major global brands on the domestic turf.

FAST LANES AT PHALABORWA GATES OPEN IN KNP

Staff at the Phalaborwa gate let the first clients through the long-awaited revamped Phalaborwa Entrance Gate on Friday, October 5, 2007. The four lanes allow day visitors and wild card holders fast and convenient access to the Kruger National Park's (KNP) northern and far northern regions. According to Terry Nel, the lane directions are not set and can be changed according to need.

"In this way we can have two lanes into the park in the mornings and two lanes exiting the park in the evenings to facilitate heavy traffic when necessary." "Overnight visitors, clients who need to renew their wild cards and people who want to book either night drives or accommodation at Sable dam still need to stop over at reception," says Terry.

Construction of the gate started in April/May this year. "It was amazing how the whole town and the Phalaborwa community worked together to complete this project, especially towards the end to add the final touches," adds Terry. "People came to install the irrigation in the garden, assist with the garden itself and so much more."

Even a baobab that was planted in 1976 at the department of land affairs in town found a new home at the gate. The tree was 'relocated', under the guidance of its original gardener, Retha Green, and with the assistance of Hilton Bezuidenhout of the Ba-Phalaborwa municipality. According to Blake Schraader, head of technical services in the Park, the next gates to be revamped in a similar manner to the Phalaborwa gate will be Phabeni and Crocodile Bridge.

NAVARA RACER IS SA'S TOUGHEST EXPORT

It's not a big export programme in terms of volume but the Nissan Hardbody and Navara off-road racing bakkies built by Nissan Motorsport in Midrand have earned a formidable reputation for durability amongst those who know – competitors in the world's toughest motorsport event, the Dakar rally.

The 19th export racing Nissan bakkie is on its way to Hungarian Laszlo Palik, who will drive it in the 2008 Dakar Rally, while no20 is on the jig and will be completed later in October 2007 for delivery to Portuguese racer Pedro Grancha, in time for the 2008 Dakar.

Six South African-built Nissan Navara off-road racing bakkies will contest the 2008 Dakar rally, which will start in Lisbon, Portugal on January 5, each built in Midrand under the direction of general manager Glyn Hall for a privateer customer.

South Africans Mark Corbett and Francois Jordaan will be competing in their first Dakar, while Norwegian Ivar Tollefsen and Briton Quin Evans will drive in their third Dakar rally together. Sandor Kis of Hungary will compete in his second Dakar rally in his South African-built Navara.

Hall said: "Originally we built two Nissan Hardbody racing pickups for French Nissan dealer Dessoude, which were driven in the 2002 Dakar Rally by Belgian Gregoire de Mevius and Frenchman Stephane Peterhansel."

At least three of the old South African Hardbody pickups will contest the 2008 Dakar rally in addition to the six customer Navaras built in Midrand.

GREETINGS FROM ADVENTURE ONLINE

Days left in 2007 are dwindling fast and a fabulous festive season is virtually upon us, with the promise of holidays and unforgettable adventures that lie ahead. With December on our minds, Adventure Online brings you the best of adventures to your doorstep and a brand new competition with an awesome prize just too good to pass up... The mountains are calling! We cover five new hot adventures for our readers and bring you the lowdown of the annual Magoebaskloof MTB Classic. Read on to find out where the Adventure Online team finished in the grueling 70km cycle.

Competition

The magic and grandeur of the Drakensburg is an allure that captivates each and every visitor to

this majestic part of South Africa. This month Adventure Online brings you the chance to journey to the berg and go play! So whats up for grabs, you ask.

To enter this competition, click here and [complete the entry form](#) on www.adventureonline.co.za. It's even easier than grass skiing! Enter as many times as you like to increase your chances!

OFF-ROAD IN AMERICA: CROSSING THE RUBICON

By Daniel Cobbs

"This is where I want to be buried. It's been part of my life for so long, I couldn't think of spending eternity anywhere else." I was talking to Mark Smith, grand-daddy of the Rubicon Trail, as he pointed to the hills to show me his chosen final resting place.

It's 6.30am, the sun here in Nevada has barely risen over the white fir trees, yet this octogenarian is showing the vigour of a man half his age. "I love this time of day," he tells me, "it's when Mother Nature is at her most beautiful." It's easy to see why this 200ha near Lake Tahoe has intoxicated and mesmerised Smith for so long. "I first arrived here just after the war. I was following this woman, determined to make her my wife; her family came from these parts.

"I ended up marrying her and never moved away..." Smith can recall a time when travellers passed along this ancient Indian trail using horse-drawn carts. "It takes a day to cover six miles in the latest Jeep Wrangler. Can you imagine how difficult it was for those old-timers, with only a pony rig?"

Good point. The previous day I had set off in a convoy of Jeep Wrangler Rubicons along a trail littered with every imaginable type of natural obstacle from huge Himalayan-size boulders, which seemed to have been picked up and precisely positioned across our way, to fast rivers strewn with tyre-bursting shingle.

As if these perilous barriers weren't enough to contend with then the choking red dust that kicks up at the slightest breeze and gets in everywhere ensures that the Rubicon Trail remains as one of the world's most challenging off-road routes. I asked Smith, a pony-tailed pensioner, whether any of the 40km trek had been contrived for the paying public: "No, sir! The boulders roll down from the hills and we leave them just where they fall."

Jeeps have been using this ancient Native American footpath for more than half a century as a proving ground for new pre- and post-production units. In 1954 it was Mark Smith who first involved Willys Motors – then manufacturer to Jeep – with this adventure. Today, Jeep enthusiasts and owners can try their off-road driving skills with the assistance of Smith's organisation that provides experts for the times when the route seems impassable and, when the day's drive is over, are to hand at the campsite to cater for the weary guest-drivers.

As we spoke, the tranquillity of dawn was shattered. Piano Bob started plonking away on a weather-beaten baby grand to rouse the campers. "We had the piano choppered-in for Bob to play his stuff," Smith said after I'd spun around to see who'd smashed the serenity of first light. "If we don't tell him to stop he'll just carry on thumping away on them keys."

Well-fed, rarin' to go

As the reveille recital jangled through the camp my fellow "Jeepers" yawned their way out of their ex-US army tents for Day 2. In true American fashion, breakfast was a gut-busting affair but served canteen-style by Smith's super-friendly staff. The looked like extras from "Deliverance".

We mounted up, well-fed and rarin' to go, and Piano Bob played us out of camp with an appalling

rendition of "Yankee Doodle Dandy". Then, mere metres from the camp's entrance, we were on more of the same torturous track we'd grown accustomed to only this time the rocks (some the size of a hatchback), were damp with dew.

The natural roughness of these geological formations has, over the aeons, eroded to glass-like surfaces but the Wranglers clawed their way up and over. I'd love to say it was the drivers' ability in automotive mountaineering but the credit has to go to the vehicles.

Unlike most new 4x4s (including other Jeeps) that have opted for the simpler, electronic, push-button selection of low-ratio, the Wranglers have manual shift and that requires a degree of brute force. Once engaged, the pace drops to around 15km/h along smoother parts of the trail but down to almost nothing as we tackle "Big Sluice" or "Cadillac Hill" – two of the most demanding and technical of natural off-road obstacles.

Some simple rules

Nevertheless, the Rubicon Trail isn't about big-tyred 4x4s stomping over some of the most stunning scenery in America. Smith, along with the Jeep Corporation, promote the message "Tread Lightly!" wherever they go. It's a commonsense edict that encourages all off-road vehicles to "...keep to marked trails, avoid sensitive areas to protect wildlife and fauna, dispose of waste and restore degraded areas".

They're all simple rules and, if followed, will help to keep the land free of human influences. The lead instruction vehicle stopped frequently to "sweep-up" trash thoughtlessly discarded by hikers and sightseers. And, with the introduction of a super-clean and super-efficient 2.8-litre diesel engine, the Wrangler has also become more environmentally friendly.

I was driving one of Smith's fleet of new Wranglers, straight from the showroom – no post-assembly modifications. If you fancy your chances on The Rubicon, the pay-'n-drive operation has two- or four-door Wranglers and prices vary according to the route (Smith does more than 30 family-friendly trips throughout America) but the typical cost of the three-day Rubicon is \$1850 (about R12 500) per person (full board, one night's camping, no flights).

By midday it was nearly all over. The track had levelled and the "impassable" had been left in a haze of red dust.

The Rubicon Trail is named for the river in northern Italy which Caesar, having crossed on his way to war with Rome, declared a point of no return. So, once you set off on the Rubicon, you keep going to the end. - The Independent, London

AD BREAK....ARTICLES CONTINUES THEREAFTER...

NAVIGATORS FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE ADVENTURES

Whether you're a seasoned and well travelled adventurer or just starting out in the 4x4 offroad lifestyle, join us to discover more about the areas we travel in, and to experience the adventure and sense of accomplishment of handling the demands of self-sufficient travel in Africa.

We want your wilderness experience to be an unforgettable adventure – join one of our guided self-drive tours to make new friends and discover exciting destinations in the company of like-minded individuals, leaving the planning and organisation to us. Or put together your own group and charter us to plan your itinerary, do all the bookings, and provide professional guidance and assistance for your tour.

FEATURED TOURS FOR FIRST HALF 2008:

"Kalahari Black-Maned Lions": Kgalagadi – 9 Nights / 8 Days (Upington to Upington)

Dates: 5 – 13 January 2008

Dates: 1 – 9 February 2008

This is our favourite time to visit the Kgalagadi: first rains turn the grasslands green; the pans and ephemeral rivers sparkle with standing water; and the usually-blue skies are often painted with an impressive build-up of clouds. Our focus is on the remote Mabuasehube region in the Botswana side of the KTP, with its unfenced campsites, white pans and savannah grasslands. Our tour dates look to maximise on the 'rain season' in this area - a time when the wildlife almost seems content and relaxed, as the usual struggle for water and food diminishes with the onset of the rains...

"Central Kalahari Game Reserve" – 10 Nights / 8 Days (Khama Rhino to Rakops)

Dates: 7 – 16 April 2008

An expedition to the CKGR is for experienced and bush-wise travellers with well equipped 4x4 vehicles who are self-sufficient for overland travel. For those who are prepared for the adventure of travelling in this region, you'll be rewarded with a memorable experience in one of Africa's great wilderness areas – at a time when the grasslands are green and the game viewing is at its best!

Koakoefeld "Desert Elephants & Himba" - 14 Nights / 13 Days (Windhoek to Twyfelfontein)

Dates: 11 – 24 May 2008

Dates: 8 – 21 June 2008

This is an essential adventure for anyone interested in an unrivalled wilderness, cultural and driving experience with dramatic scenery and great campsites. Our expedition-style tour traverses the domain of the desert-dwelling elephants and giraffe, free-ranging black rhino, and the fascinating pastoral-nomadic Himba people. Our route includes off-road highlights such as the Khowarib Schlucht, Van Zyl's Pass and Amspoort loop. But it is the solitude and unrivalled wilderness atmosphere of this starkly beautiful region that calls to the adventurer and explorer in each of us!

Visit our website at <http://www.navigators4wd.co.za> for our complete/ 2008 Tour Schedule, and to view or subscribe to our current Newsletter. For specific details and pricing on our safaris and expeditions, e-mail us at info@navigators4wd.co.za. Alternatively, contact Karen at our office on +27 (0) 21 689 1825 or Chris on mobile +27 (0) 83 675 3484.

(March 2007)

Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

HOW MOTHER NATURE - AND HUMANKIND - BENEFIT FROM OXPECKERS AND DUNG BEETLES

JOB PROFILE: OXPECKERS:

- The Yellow-billed Oxpecker and Red-billed Oxpecker have a long history with humankind, thanks to their **symbiotic** (mutually beneficial) **relationship** with Africa's large beasts.
- Oxpeckers dine on the **ticks and their larvae** found on cattle, horses, and wild animals such as antelope and rhinoceroses.
- When young oxpeckers fledge, they fly directly to a host and may feed there for up to **two months!**
- Oxpeckers can be game and cattle farmers' greatest **natural allies** against ticks - an adult Red-billed Oxpecker can consume nearly **100 engorged female** ticks and more than **12 000 larvae** in a day.

JOB PROFILE: DUNG BEETLES

- Dung beetles bury **75%** of all dung produced in a healthy ecosystem
- To help you get an idea of the **tremendous job load** they face every day, consider the following facts: Kruger National Park's 12 500 elephants produce **1 875 tons** of dung per day and South Africa's 10 million cattle produce a further **200 000 to 300 000 tons per day!**
- In returning dung to the soil. Dung beetles play a crucial role in improving **soil aeration**, increasing **nutrient recycling** and assisting in the control of cattle parasites that breed in dung.
- **Don't drive** over piles of dung in game reserves as you may well be **killing** many hardworking dung beetles!
- Dung beetles are excellent indicators of the **health** of a biosphere, due to their narrow habitat tolerance and their complex assemblage structure
- The use of dung beetles as indicators of habitat quality in South Africa is a **world first!**

WHERE IS KINGLESY NOW – THANKS TO LAND ROVER CENTURION

Land Rover can be really proud of what we are achieving as a team. The recent Fight Malaria activity in the Niger Delta and around Bamako in Mali was truly remarkable in terms of the wonderful gratitude – mums singing and dancing in appreciation for the long-lasting nets.

Best regards and thanks as always for the support – we couldn't do it without you.

Kingsley and the expedition team

Humanitarian Action – Saving and Improving Lives Through Adventure

Given that this Land Rover supported expedition left from the Cape of Good Hope and travelled up the West Coast of South Africa which is not a malaria area, it was important to immediately commence the Teaching on the Edge campaign in which the expedition distributed mobile libraries to remote schools, and in Namibia around Luderitz, Walvis Bay and Ruacana. The One Net One Life malaria prevention campaign in which long-lasting insecticide impregnated mosquito nets are distributed to pregnant mothers and to children under the age of five got into full swing in Northern Namibia and Southern Angola, as did the Right to Sight programme in which spectacles are distributed to the poor sighted. The gratitude from the pregnant mums and those with babies under five is overwhelming as is the instant delight when a poor sighted person is able to read or do hand craft or simply weave a mat. In Angola the expedition distributed thousands of pencils, pens and exercise books to remote bush schools, many of which don't even have desks. At

Centro de Saude Boavista, a downtown clinic in the centre of Luanda mosquito nets were distributed to pregnant mums and babies. This very successful event went out on local radio, TV and press, the story of a South African led expedition caring for the people of Africa.

At Ponta de Padrao at the mouth of the Congo where Diogo Cao first erected a stone cross in 1482 we distributed mosquito nets to pregnant mums with babies and continued to do so as we made our way across the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cabinda and Congo Brazzaville. In Gabon with the help of the Wildlife Conservation Society we used theatre and costuming to add a conservation message to our Teaching on the Edge programme. At the Albert Schweitzer institute in Lambarene Prof Sadoo agrees that the best results that they've had in preventing malaria have been through the distribution of life saving mosquito nets, proving once again that we and the sponsors who are supporting this, the most exciting expedition ever, in support of malaria prevention, are on the right track. Working in the mud and rain in Cameroun we continue to place life saving nets in the hands of pregnant mums and mums with children under the age of five in high risk malaria areas where there are no regular health services, Teaching on the Edge materials and spectacles to the poor sighted. In Nigeria we are part of a campaign to distribute over 200 000 long-lasting mosquito nets, and a continued supply of mobile libraries and hundreds of spectacles to the poor sighted. The expedition Scroll of Peace and Goodwill endorsed by Nobel Prize laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela remains very much part of our humanitarian effort, now gathered over 4000 signatures and messages in support of malaria prevention. These include goodwill messages from the drivers and teams of the 347 Landies that escorted us out from the Cape of Good Hope 128 days and 16 427 km ago.

The Scroll has gone on to be messaged by government officials, health workers, prime ministers, governors, administrators and chiefs. In Kaokaland the Scroll was endorsed with a simple red ochred handprint from a near naked Himba mother, in Luanda by a member of the Dos Santos family and by the chief at Ponta Padrao where in 1482 the Portuguese navigator Diogo Cao erected a stone cross at the mouth of the great Congo River.

On the island of Principe in the Gulf of Guinea the much travelled Scroll was messaged by top government ministers and in Gabon by the director of the Malaria Research Institute at the Dr Albert Schweitzer memorial hospital on the Ogooue River.

At a media function in Libreville additions to the Scroll continued as the South African ambassador and the embassies of Sao Tome and Principe, Egypt, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Conakry and the Democratic Republic of Congo all added their signatures and messages. Added to the endorsements in support of malaria prevention are those of ordinary people as well. In the forests of Cameroun a simple pygmy signed the historic Scroll. In Nigeria it has been endorsed by High Chief Edem Duke, the Royal Chiefs of the ancient city of Calabar and the governor of Cross River State who wrote: *"We commend your wonderful humanitarian effort aimed at the mothers and children of Africa. We are proud to be part of this initiative."*

At a banquet in Lagos the First Lady of Lagos State endorsed the humble expedition scroll as did the Roll Back Malaria team who joined us in a 10 000 mosquito net fight against malaria in Nigeria. Dodging the wild chaotic traffic of Lagos the three expedition Landies made it to the King's palace for an official signing and distribution of mosquito nets to pregnant mums and babies. In the Kingdom of Badagry, his Royal Majesty the Akran wrote: *"This is the greatest mission of the 21st century in the fight against malaria in which you have taken on the No. 1 killer."* His majesty gave us the freedom of the city and signed certificates that made us pilgrims of historic Badagry.

In Ouidah, Benin to the accompaniment of drums, singing and dancing in the sacred forest his majesty the voodoo king Mito Daho Mindji Kpassenon wrote *"I do appreciate what you are doing for peace and malaria. We voodoo people thank you for this great work."*

In Ghana the Scroll is messaged by the Paramount Chief of Aflau, the regional administrators and the honourable Kofi Osei deputy minister of tourism. In Accra the director-general of education writes: *"AKWAABA!!! Welcome to Ghana, the land of people who love peace – we cherish and appreciate your concern for the welfare of ordinary Africans – God bless you – BRAVO!!"*

Dr Bernard Kwazi Glover who is assisting us with our One Net One Life campaign against malaria writes: *"This is a wonderful venture and adventure. Malaria has been endemic in this part of West Africa for centuries – in fact in colonial times the area was referred to as the 'white man's grave' – caused by malaria. This venture will make a difference."*

Yao Dzide writes that *"Malaria is still a major killer and that the long-lasting mosquito nets we are distributing will drastically help in reducing malaria, especially in children."*

The South African ambassador in Ghana at a dinner party in our honour wrote this message: *"Thank you for flying the flag of our Rainbow Nation in a noble mission of saving and improving lives."*

Joined by Lesley Sutton and Rory Beattie from Land Rover and a team of journalists we continue our Land Rover supported humanitarian work in Benin and Togo and in Ghana we distributed mobile libraries, spectacles and over 6000 life saving nets. Down on the gold coast of Ghana we've had great success in using the historic forts and castles as distribution points for the One Net One Life campaign. Each pregnant mum and those with children under the age of five received a stamped Africa Outside Edge ticket which they exchanged for a life saving mosquito net. It's a great humanist turn about giving out these nets in the same courtyards and on the same steps from which tens of thousands of slaves were exported to the new world, part of the horrific trade in human flesh, so its good that we distributed life saving nets from these same historic locations. J.K.W. Kwaw, the officer in charge of the world heritage site Elmina Castle, build by the Portuguese in 1482 (10 years before Columbus discovered America) added this note to the Mandela scroll: *"Elmina Castle, the first of so many European settlements on our coastline is proud to receive the One Net One Life expedition. Malaria, the scourge of sub-Saharan Africa ought to be eradicated completely. Your expedition is an outstanding example of human endeavour."*

The One Net One Life campaign continued to Cote d'Ivoire. Abidjan, the gleaming high rise commercial capital of Cote d'Ivoire, sometimes referred to as the New York or Paris of West Africa. It's quite a culture shock for the Outside Edge Expedition. Fancy cars driven by rich Lebanese, chicque girls in tight jeans, we stretch the budget for a few items at an air-conditioned supermarket. Mashozi ogles at the imported French cheeses, hams and salami's. I spend time at the wine tasting counter. Before the crisis this city must have been a gem. There's still a bit of tension and roadblocks around and the elections have been postponed again. The contrast here between rich and poverty stricken is incredible, ankle-deep mud and six-lane motorways, corrugated iron shacks and 30-storey buildings, Paris fashions and rags. We meet John Segbo who heads up a NGO called Stop Malaria. There is a malaria crisis here and since the French were evacuated and civil unrest hit the country the organised malaria control programme has virtually stopped. Malaria is the No.1 killer here with approximately 300 people mostly children dying every day. We move in to assist by distributing long lasting insecticide treated PermaNets to maternity clinics, outlying schools and villages. Through the Land Rover speakers John Segbo translates the malaria prevention message in French. The expedition team does demonstrations on how to use and care for the nets. There's singing, dancing and drumming.

War torn Liberia and Sierra Leone proved to be one of the expedition's greatest challenges as we battled through the endless mud of the wet season. Tough on man and machine we were still

able to continue our fight against malaria, reaching people who had suffered horribly during the war in which rebels had savaged communities and hacked off limbs. Many of the remote villages we visited had only recently returned from refugee camps in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. In Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone, Dr Baker head of the National Malaria Control Programme, endorsed the Scroll with these words of thanks: *"This expedition shows the real African brotherhood spirit of one country caring for another. We extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude."*

In a massive One Net One Life effort, the expedition detoured from Conakry on the coast of Guinea inland to Djenne in Mali where as part of the end of Ramadan celebrations, hundreds of mosquito nets were delivered to the maternity clinic and river side homes – all within close proximity of the Djenne mosque World Heritage Site, the largest mud building in the world. After Djenne the expedition followed the Niger River through its 20 000 square kilometres inland delta to mythical Timbuktu. With the highest rainfall in years the delta has "swallowed" many villages and as the waters now recede malaria is rife. Using the expedition inflatable boats we travelled from village to village, placing long lasting nets in the hands of pregnant mothers as well as spectacles to the poor sighted. In the poor areas of Bamako nets were distributed to thousands of pregnant mums via well organised events at maternity clinics and schools. The media followed these events with keen interest, a malaria prevention expedition that had been to Timbuktu and back was certainly news worthy. Imagine the excitement as we sat around a small TV set with bunny ear aerials watching the Springboks bring home the cup.

With over 20 000km and six months behind us this Land Rover supported humanitarian expedition moved back to Conakry on the coast of Guinea where we worked with the local Ministry of Health, the Malaria Control Programme and the Department of Education to continue to fight the scourge of malaria in Guinea. Radio, press and TV got behind the campaign and Mr Isaac Kekana the ambassador of South Africa to the Republic of Guinea joined us at a maternity clinic and a deaf and dumb school to assist. He wrote these words in the Mandela Scroll: *"The humanitarian donations to Africa's poor of mosquito nets makes us all proudly South African. Viva the expedition, viva! Viva the expedition, viva!"* Today we leave for Guinea Bissau – we will keep you posted –

***THANKS LAND ROVER FOR THE SUPPORT IN CARING FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA
KINGSLEY HOLGATE***

SVX CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF LAND ROVER

Land Rover will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a special, limited SVX edition of the iconic Defender - The UK will get 200 and South Africa "a few". They will be available from late April or early May 2008.

The SVX was introduced by Zara Phillips, grand-daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, at a recent British Red Cross ball in London. The first unit off the production line was donated by Land Rover to be auctioned at the ball. Ball committee chairman James Johnstone said: "Land Rover's ties with the Red Cross go back to 1954 when it supplied a vehicle for use as a mobile dispensary in Dubai - we're thrilled that the company continues to support our work."

Most of the 25 000 Defenders produced each year are working tools for everybody from farmers and foresters to aid agencies but the SVX is the most stylish version yet. It will be available in a short-wheelbase 90 soft-top and 90 station-wagon versions with metallic black paintwork and subtle satin black graphic decals.

The exterior trim – including the special "Defender" and "SVX" badges, tubular side-steps and new, clear-cover headlights - will have a contrasting silver finish and the SVX has "diamond turned" five-spoked alloy rims, a reinforced aluminium front belly shield and clear LED tail lights.

The interior has custom-designed Recaro front seats, distinctive alloy gearshifter knobs, a new audio system with sub-woofer and USB socket, an iPod cradle and Garmin satellite navigation. The soft-top model has metallic-silver roll-cage that can support a special black fabric roof over the load bed and a spare wheel stowed behind the front seats, reminiscent of the first open Land Rovers.

Each SVX will have a numbered plaque. Land Rover MD Phil Popham said: "The Defender SVX looks very different to a 1948 Series 1 but it's still an essentially practical vehicle that will get you almost anywhere.

"For those who want the ultimate Defender, we thought the SVX special edition would be an ideal way to mark Land Rover's 60th anniversary."

Prices in South Africa will be announced when they arrive.

2010 IS COMING

The **2010 FIFA World Cup** will be staged at 10 venues across nine South African cities. With 2 1/2 years to go we are set to host the world's biggest sporting event outside the Olympic Games. **South Africa** offers the visitor a variety of attractions. From the metropolitan cities of **Johannesburg** and **Pretoria**, one can easily travel down the N1 Highway to the central city of **Bloemfontein** with its beautiful flora. If breathtaking coastline is what you are after, journey from the "friendly city" of **Port Elizabeth**, along the spectacular Garden Route, arriving in **Cape Town**, one of the most spectacular cities in the world! Want to take a safari? Then **Nelspruit** and **Rustenburg** offer everything including the "Big 5"! **Durban** has a great climate and is a surfer's paradise while **Polokwane** is a vibrant city, rich in cultural heritage. Visitors will find our country positively inviting, with excellent infrastructure, transport and accommodation!

To keep abreast with all plans and proceedings please visit the FIFA website <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/> for information about the tournament and visit Africa Adventure's website www.africa-adventure.org for accommodation and anything else you might require.

CAN YOU HELP US?

OVERLANDING – JAPIE & WENDY in 2009

We are in the planning stage of a journey that will take us from SA. through Europe and down the east African coast back to SA. Initial planning is for the trip to commence in April 2009. Our Kia Sorento will be shipped to Italy. Once reunited with our Kia in Italy we will tour Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal. About August we will take a ferry from Spain to Morocco.

During the next ± 6 months we will tour the north of Africa and down East Africa visiting the following countries:

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libië, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana arriving back in SA about February 2010.

The next 20 months will be spent doing research on every country that we will visit to try and prepare as well as possible, as we will be camping and sleeping in our two man tent. We will do this trip on a shoestring budget.

We hope to raise the capital by pleading with companies, and in return we will advertise those companies on our web (www.razzmetazz.com). The plan is to make our web pages available on all the search engines so that our sponsors and we can get as much exposure as possible.

We can promote your company by wearing your T-shirts and caps. We can have your logo on our vehicle. We will gladly accept any form of equipment as a donation. We are sure that there will be some magazines, which will want our story and then it can mean more advertising for our sponsors.

We know that all party's can benefit from our adventure, in Europe as well as in Africa. We plan to do only the necessary adjustments to our Kia, as we are full of confidence in the reliability of the vehicle. Estimates currently indicate that we will do $\pm 40\ 000$ km. We need a number of things for our vehicle, like a GPS, winches, recovery accessories, high-lift jack, tow straps, roof rack, spare tires and whatever you want us to advertise for you. Can you offer help in any way?

We know that planning might change as the situation in other countries might change and the final route will differ from initial planning to ensure all interesting places that might be discovered along the way are visited.

Thanking you
Japie & Wendy - wcfouche@telkomsa.net

POWERBRAKE NEWS

Powerbrake is proud to announce the supply of our 2-piece race discs for the Ferrari 360 Challenge race cars run by the Taurino Racing Team in the Altech Porsche Challenge race series. The 2-piece race disc design was originally developed for Powerbrake's Big Brake Kits, which also include Powerbrake's new cutting edge race calipers. The new range of Powerbrake Big Brake Kits is due to be launched into the SA market shortly and will be available for a range of popular performance cars. The disc friction rings used in our Ferrari 360 race discs are cast from the same alloy used in our championship-winning Die Hard Series discs and coated in a proprietary dry-coating, which ensures quick bed-in and maximum friction levels. Carefully calculated directional cooling vanes result in maximum airflow through the disc, resulting in lower operating temperatures under race conditions. The discs feature increased friction wall thickness leading to improved thermal stability and maximum durability at race temperatures. Testing has shown reductions in peak disc temperatures of 80 - 100 deg C over the standard discs.

The Powerbrake 2-piece design is comprised of an ultra-lightweight, aerospace grade aluminium center (hat) section, which is attached to the outer friction ring by means of a system of drive pins of Powerbrake's own design. The design allows the disc friction ring to expand up to 2mm in diameter, independent of the hat section of the disc (at temperatures in excess of 600 deg C). This allowance for radial expansion reduces stress and distortion in the disc at the extreme temperatures experienced during a race. The discs feature a similar reverse-slot pattern to that employed in our top-selling Pro Street Series discs, with the exception that the inboard/outboard slots are off-set to eliminate unwanted harmonics in the large 356 x 32mm front & 330 x 28mm rear Ferrari discs. The slots, de-glaze pad friction material, reduce brake fade and improve brake modulation - allowing the driver to brake on the limit, while minimising premature ABS intervention.

Taurino Racing also runs Hawk FerroCarbon race pads supplied by Powerbrake - using a combination of Hawk's HT10 and DTC60 compounds depending on the track in question and driver preference. Powerbrake is the official South African distributor for the internationally renowned range of Hawk FerroCarbon race pads.

If you've ever dreamed of driving a Ferrari Challenge race car under track conditions - you can. In addition to running their own race team, Taurino Racing provide individual, group or corporate 'driving experience' days, during which you get to drive Ferrari Challenge race cars, under

professional instruction, in the controlled environment of a race track. If you are interested in this once in a lifetime experience - contact Oscar de Oliveira on 082 577 4219 or visit www.taurinoracing.co.za.

Powerbrake manufactures a large range of high-performance brake discs and brake upgrade kits for applications including street, track-day, race and 4x4 use. If you're looking to improve the performance and durability of the brakes on your car or 4x4 - contact us for more information or [visit our website](#).

Powerbrake also have a magnificent range for the 4WD Community, as shown at our attendance at the recent Enthusiasts meeting.

For more information - contact Powerbrake at: TEL: +27 (0)12 998 0214
EMAIL: sales@powerbrake.co.za WEB: www.powerbrake.co.za

CHUNKY TERIOS UPGRADE ROARS LIKE A BABY TIGER

The simplest way to make a Daihatsu Terios shine is avoid the one-colour option and instead buy one off the showroom floor in the beautiful two-tone combinations of paint and trim that the manufacturer also offers. If that isn't enough to float your boat, you can splurge a little more and add some sparkle (literally) and boost this baby off-roader's performance with an upgrade package from Daihatsu.

Throw in between R13 000 and R23 000 more, for the 4x4 auto and manual transmission models respectively, and you'll get a Terios that looks ready to tackle either the highways or the bush with serious attitude.

Features list

A chromed bush-bar and side-steps, all emblazoned with the Terios name, are joined by luggage rails and tow hitch. Don't forget the bush-bar's spotlights, with a switch blended so seamlessly into the fascia you'll swear it's always been a standard feature.

That switch is also a hint at the signs of Daihatsu's careful planning in the design of this upgrade package; the whole layout avoids the trap of looking like some aftermarket bolt-on kit and instead extends the car's lines and styling.

Not just for show

After that, the upgrade gets into the serious stuff. Out go the standard 215/65 road tyres to be replaced by a set of all-terrain 235/60 rubber (Yokohama Geolander AT-S, in the case of our test vehicle). Daihatsu's six-spoked, 16" alloys remain but they look oh so much better surrounded by all that heavy-duty rubber. Ride height is noticeably increased (by 50mm to 250mm) and the suspension is backed up by a set of Pro Comp's ES 9000 series gas shock-absorbers that come with nifty rubber boots to keep nasties such as dirt and water away from the shock's central piston.

These shocks are velocity sensitive so deliver a smooth ride on tar but also deal well with sudden changes in road height and surface dished up by off-road driving. They make the Terios feel like it's tracking very slowly from side to side in a strong crosswind but still live up very well to Pro Comp's claims that they are dependable, all-purpose shocks.

Tiny-tiger growl

Turn the key in the ignition and you'll be greeted with a throaty purr – the product of a stainless-steel, free-flow exhaust that boosts power of the 1.5-litre engine by 10kW to 87kW and ups torque

by 10Nm to 150. Push the revs above 4000 and the power reels out and the purr becomes a roar – but you don't get the full tiger. It's more like a cub in training.

The note is impressive enough to turn heads, though, and pedestrians often glanced in the direction of the Terios and then performed a double take in astonishment when the source of the rude noises became apparent.

Wait folks, there's more

The added power, road-holding and off-road ready appearance tempted me to take the Terios into my local proving ground normally reserved for 4x4's double its size. The heavy-duty, polyester seat covers and the satellite navigation system (also standard features with the upgrade) made it all the more fun to explore and get dirty.

The unit that houses the navigation system also contains a CD/DVD/MP3 player, radio, and USB/flash memory reader and has a touch-sensitive screen. Talk about packing in the features! And the separate remotes for the satnav and entertainment system will suit those of you too lazy to extend a hand all the way to the screen.

Dear Santa...

After nine days of driving through heavy traffic, on highways and over all sorts of off-road terrain (even up and down several 60-degree slopes) and sometimes going hell-for-leather just because I could, the Terios had consumed half the contents of its 50-litre fuel tank and left me with a grin.

I've never been a fan of the plain-Jane design of the standard Terios but this upgrade is extremely appealing. As with the standard version, Daihatsu has packed in features that appear to be worth far more than the asking price. I'll be putting this one on my Christmas wish list. It never hurts to ask.

Prices:

4x2 manual: R169 995

4x4 manual: R186 995

4x4 automatic: R196 995

4x4 upgrade: R209 995

The Terios comes with a three-year or 100 000km warranty and three-year or 75 000km service plan. Remote-controlled central locking with an immobiliser is standard with the upgrade.

VERVET MONKEYS A PROBLEM

There have been a number of stories in our local papers recently about vervet monkeys in urban areas. People and pets have been attacked, gardens damaged and houses trashed. Sensitivities no longer allow the sort of response that in the past kept the monkeys away from the suburbs. People are at their wits end and no authority seems willing to act! I know that it is no consolation, but conflict between people and monkeys is a long standing world wide phenomenon. In India they are considered sacred by the Hindus and have reached plague proportions with no acceptable control mechanism likely.

In East Africa, vervets, baboons and colobus monkeys regularly raid crops and homes and there is a constant battle between the higher and lower order primates. In these instances, this conflict is understandable as people have moved into the territories of these animals. In the case of urban areas in eastern South Africa, man has created huge new areas of suitable habitat for vervet monkeys and the monkeys response has been to increase and fill these new territories. In unmodified South Africa, vervet monkeys existed in much lower densities, confined to the warmer savannah and bushveld areas. With the planting of alien timber plantations and the spread of

dense stands of volunteer alien plants such as wattle, the range of the vervets has expanded enormously into areas where they never normally existed, like the Drakensberg.

Because Vervet monkeys rely largely on learned behaviour (as opposed to instinct), they are highly adaptable to their changing environment and they have learned that an easy and swift method of acquiring filling, nutritional and tasty food is to steal it from human homes within their range. When food sources get scarce, this may seem easier than the long hours needed to forage for indigenous vegetation in order to meet nutritional needs. What can frustrated urban dwellers do about the monkey problem. Firstly, all the affected people in the home range of a vervet troop need to agree on the problem and solutions.

Its no good if some people are feeding the animals while others are trying to discourage them. There needs to be some form of education so that people understand the behaviour and sociology of vervets and what attracts them to certain gardens and areas. If you leave pet food in accessible areas or allow easy access into your house where food is exposed, you can expect trouble. If you have fruiting trees in your garden, expect to be visited. Big dogs will keep monkeys away but small and old dogs are likely to be attacked. Primates live in male dominated societies so male troop leaders have no fear of women. In a situation where women encounter monkeys, they should try to ignore them and never make eye contact which is seen as a challenge.

Try not to show fear and never run away. Continue about your business and they will probably ignore you. In instances where troop leaders have learned that they can get away with that sort of aggressive behaviour, they may have to be destroyed. Rubber snakes and silhouettes of large birds of prey have limited scare value as the monkeys soon learn that they are not real. As monkeys depend on eye sight and not a sense of smell, concoctions that smell of predators or are disagreeable do not really work. Bottom line-make your house and garden unattractive to the monkeys and they will go somewhere else!

TOYOTA'S NEW LAND CRUISER 200 FLAGSHIP

By Les Stephenson

Toyota SA is really focused on the new version of its Land Cruiser SUV flagship, the 200 Series, just launched to replace the 100 almost simultaneously worldwide. One high-spec VX with a choice of V8 engines – an all-new monster 4.5-litre turbodiesel or a 4.7-litre petrol.

No sir, the less-expensive GX is no more – for that you'll have to turn to the Land Cruiser Prado (which will still be around until mid-2009) or, for a real workaday, rugged, don't-care-if-you-ding-it, off-roader there's the fairly new [70 Series station wagon](#).

Ace Dube, Toyota's vice-president for marketing and communications, was upfront in his launch presentation about the 200 being for rich, seriously rich, buyers "who are image-conscious, family-orientated 4x4 enthusiasts who thrive on adventure". "The 200 is tougher and even more reliable – a Master of Africa that's more comfortable on or off-road than any competitor," he asserted - and he'll get no argument from me.

Here are the prices:

Land Cruiser 200 VX 4.7 petrol – R738 000

Land Cruiser 200 VX 4.5 diesel – R770 000

I drove a diesel unit with its 173kW (at 3200rpm) and trail-crunching 615Nm of torque (from 1800-200rpm) from Lanseria airport north-west of Johannesburg to the Waterberg 200km north on freeways, potholed back roads and finally on 40km of rippled gravel to the Marataba game reserve along which the Cruiser's rigid ladder chassis not only didn't shake or rattle but permitted

little more than a tremble though to my leather-cosseted backside. The car's 17" alloy rims shod with 295/65 tyres are so big that they roll across most of the tar potholes without dropping into them.

I used a petrol version for the return trip to Jozi. While this engine, a more powerful version of the unit from the previous 100 Series, also has a lot of clout I missed the sheer low-revs grunt of the diesel – the latter would certainly be my choice, especially if you plan to use your Land Cruiser "into Africa". The fuel tank (petrol or diesel) will take 93 litres, which sounds useful but the big V9's are thirsty: outward, the diesel was registering 13-15 litres/100km, coming home the petrol was hovering around 17 – both journeys carrying only two people and minimal luggage.

The return journey included some modest to fairly serious off-road work on a private track in the summer-beautiful, Magaliesberg – parallel mountain ranges north-west of Johannesburg and running more or less east-west with Hartebeespoort dam between them.

On the southern range, way above the rich farmland, there's a stunning hidden valley cupping a mini-paradise full of trees and birds through which a barely visible jeep track meanders before climbing straight and very steeply to the summit on which lies a cap of ancient, heat-shattered sandstone rocks.

Six-speed auto

The views over the lake (and the awful, sprawling Tuscan development that has almost throttled it) are stupendous and getting there is exactly what Land Cruiser and was designed for – exploring places that would otherwise be out of reach.

Both engines send their power through a six-speed auto gearbox equipped with a manual sequential mode and electronically selectable high or low-range all-wheel drive and sit on electro-hydraulic mounts that absorb engine vibration.

The transmission lock-up works on fifth and sixth gears and the box has what Toyota calls "artificial intelligence-shift control" that inhibits ratio-hunting when climbing and engine braking on descents. Total control on choices can be achieved by using the shift lever for manual changes.

The seven-seater 200 is 60mm longer, 30mm wider and 30mm higher than its 100 predecessor yet has the same wheelbase and its off-road approach and departure angles remain the same at 30 and 20 degrees. The ramp-over angle is 25 degrees, wheel articulation has grown by 105mm and the boot floor is 50mm longer. The first and second row of seats can be slid through 240 and 105mm respectively.

More high-tech

So, the Cruiser is bigger vehicle with a V8 diesel engine that's more powerful by 23kW and has 185Nm more torque. Potent stuff, but the petrol engine has also been given more power at 202kW instead of the previous 170 though its 410Nm of torque is the same. There's also more high-tech stuff – the main items being a system called KDSS – kinetic dynamic suspension system – that keeps the body as parallel with Mother Earth as possible at speed or off-road, and "crawl control" for the petrol engine. Think big rocks, deep sand, river beds and choose one of three crawl-speeds options to suit the terrain; its huge torque makes the system redundant on diesel units.

In reality, it's merely an electronic foot with three settings: slow, even slower and "Beware! Tortoise overtaking". It only comes with the petrol model – the diesel, in low range, can pretty much crawl over anything with the engine idling – and replaces the simple rotary switch that's been on 4x4 vehicles for many years.

More new items include all-terrain anti-lock brakes that sense the grip of the ground being covered, side crash bags for the outer second-row seats and a cabin-length curtain bag along each side to cover all seven seats – including knee and normal protection, there are 10 bags in total.

Long list

The only bigger number is that of the aircon vents – the Cruiser has individual front and rear controls and 28 outlets. Cool, as my teenage daughter would say. The list of standard features is long – the Toyota sales brochure for the car runs to 32 pages! – but here are a few more: emergency braking assistance, gradient-descent control, reversing camera and distance sensors, child restraint system, electric sunroof, headlight washers, leather upholstery, satellite navigation with a high-resolution touch-sensitive screen, high-end audio system with MP3 and Bluetooth capability and nine speakers, auto wipers, power seat adjustment, fridge and rear privacy glass.

Frankly, two days with the cars was not nearly enough to learn – or use – all the features that come with the Cruiser 200. Owning one will be an ongoing education for a lucky few who, I hope, will use them not as a desperate symbol of financial status but as an excellent tool for exploring the beauty of Africa in and outside South Africa's borders.

Advert:

LAST CALL FOR ADVENTURERS

Various Expeditions

November 2007

***Masazane Expeditions* has to finalise the lists for various adventures. If you are interested please contact Jacqui as soon as possible so that these lists of adventurers can be finalised and the paperwork can be started...**

CHRISTMAS SERENGETI EXPEDITION 2007

Due to a last minute interest in this amazing expedition, we have decided to move the deadline for the minimum number of persons to Monday, 12 November 2007 12:00. We have updated the estimated costs for the 2007 Expedition. If you are interested and you still have not decided what to do over Christmas, please contact Jacqui immediately so that she can forward the said information.

TRANS-AFRICA 2008

Dave has eventually returned from the 2007 Trans-Africa Expedition and we are in the process of updating the estimated costs based on this 2007 Expedition. If you are interested in this wonderful once-in-a-lifetime adventure, then contact Jacqui so that she can forward the said information to you as soon as it has been finalised. It is due to this delay that we have moved the deadline for the minimum number of persons to the beginning of December 2007. The 2008 Expedition is planned to leave RSA in May 2008.

4X4 TRAILS AND OVERLAND TOURIST GUIDE COURSE

The Louis Trichardt course will be starting at **Camp Africa** first thing on Thursday morning, 08 November 2007. If you would like to join at the last minute you are welcome to do so... Please contact Jacqui immediately to make the necessary arrangements.

We had so many interested in the course planned for the Cape Region but have not obtained enough people as yet. But the deadline is only Monday, 12 November 2007... so if you still want to do this course this year, please contact Jacqui immediately. This course will only be held again next year around March 2008 (exact dates still to be confirmed).

Our contact details are:

015 516 5717 Tel / Fax
082 829 5421 Jacqui's mobile
082 772 6682 Dave's mobile
info@masazane.co.za

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Hi Alan,

Many, many thanks for the great e-zine, and for including our company intro letter! Wow, imagine our surprise when we were reading through Offroad & Outdoor and found... us!

This is absolutely brilliant, we really appreciate our inclusion. Please don't hesitate to use any of our promotional email material in the future. In fact if you are ever in need of articles, photographs, tips on self driving in Botswana, etc please don't hesitate contacting us, we would only be too happy to contribute to this greatly informative e-zine.

With thanks

PS: If you are ever coming up to northern Botswana, give us a shout please so we can take you out for an icy cold beer or two and give you a taste of Motswana hospitality.

Taryn & Eddie
Self Drive Adventures
web address: www.selfdriveadventures.com

Hi Alan
As always thanx for the mention.
Joscelin Whitfield
www.landandsea.co.za
Land and Sea Travel & Dive Club

EXCELLENT SERVICE FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

I have calls from 2 people who have had battery systems installed by PB Enterprises in Centurion (see our Preferred Suppliers at the end of the newsletter). Need assistance, got a problem with your dual battery system et al, then give them a shout.

NOVEMBER ENTHUSIAST MEETING RESPONSE

Hallo Mnr. Bolton,

Ek wil graag van hierdie geleentheid gebruik maak om dankie te sê dat U 'n Nuvi 710 beskikbaar gestel het as 'n prys. Dit is nou maar net dat ek die gelukkige een tussen meer as 220 mense die kans gekry het om dit te wen.

Ek het 'n hele klomp kaartjies gekoop en daar was baie pryse. Ek het maar net gesien hoe die ander ouens se kaartjies keer op keer getrek word en het later moed verloor. Nou ja, om die minste te sê, die oomblik toe my nommer, 138 uitgelees word, was dit soos musiek in my ore.

Terloops, dit is die eerste keer in my lewe dat ek so 'n duur prys wen.

Nogmaals baie dankie.
Andries Krynauw.

Hi Alan,
Thank you for a very enjoyable & enlightening evening last night.
Regards
Alex le Roux

AFRICA BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL ADVENTURES

ALL ITINERARIES, TOUR INFO, PHOTOS, COSTS CAN BE VIEWED ON www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

TOURS FOR 2008:

LAND OF THE LEGENDS

1st February—3rd February 2008

15th February—17th February 2008

ROOF OF AFRICA

25th April—28th April 2008

ANGOLA FISHING SAFARI—13 DAYS

24th March 2008—5th April 2008

4th April 2008—16th April 2008

2nd May 2008—14th May 2008

ANGOLA PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARI—11 DAYS

25th March 2008—4th April 2008

3rd May 2008—13th May 2008

CUNENE TO CONGO RIVER—ANGOLA

14th July 2008—5th August 2008

28th August 2008—19th September 2008

MOUNTAIN OF THE MAMBA GAME VIEWING SAFARI

21st February 2008—24th February 2008

22nd May 2008—25th May 2008

16th October 2008—19th October 2008

SURVIVAL TRAINING—PRACTICAL SURVIVAL ADVENTURE

CROSS BORDER IN BIG 5 TERRITORY—100,000 HECTARE—BOTSWANA

DURATION—10 DAYS MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE: www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

WE ARE FLEXIBLE AND CAN DESIGN THE TOUR OF YOUR CHOICE—TRY US. OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

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SPECIALITIES: PROFESSIONAL 4 X 4 TRAILS AND OVERLAND TOURS

CELL: 0825792796

ISOBELLE MOORCROFT

CELL: 0825612613

TEL/FAX: 012-6536725

E MAIL: kmoor@telkomsa.net

WEBSITE: www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

January 2007

Fresh from the Bush – New Products

CANVAS SEAT COVERS

We are a company that produces canvas products (seat covers, Bakkie mattresses etc.) for the 4x4 market and would like to bring our products to the attention of your club members. Steenberg canvas manufacture their own products which means better prices for club members. Our website address is www.steenbergcanvas.co.za

Contact us now, or see our great products at the first Enthusiast's Meeting, next year.

Yours sincerely
Wynand Steenberg

RESQME - KEYCHAIN RESCUE TOOL

Convincing folk to wear seat belts has been a big issue for me over the last ten years of being a 4X4 driver trainer. Some people come up with the most ludicrous excuses not to wear them. I asked one expat, living here in Uganda, why he doesn't wear his seatbelt. And he replied, because he's a better driver than all the nationals!!

If we take into account that the emerging nations have about 80 percent of the global death tally from road traffic incidents his rationality seems a little shaky! When I first came to Uganda driving was described as a series of near misses, or Muzungu kissing, as one national driver called it. Unfortunately it's now progressed into the full on Glaswegian type.

Wrong information is given out by people who think they know what they are talking about. For instance, I heard from some drivers and aid workers that they were told not to wear their seat belts because they are working in a hostile environment. This wise piece of advice was given out by the so called security officer of the organisation! What nonsense. If we look at any hostile environment where aid workers are working we'll find that one of the largest cause of death and

injury is from being involved in a collision, not being shot at. Or, even having to evacuate the vehicle under cross fire for that matter.

But one of the most common excuses I get for not wearing seat belts is that people are afraid of getting stuck in a crashed vehicle with seat belt jammed and, if we take it to worse case, can't open the doors with the vehicle on fire.

Enter the life hammer. A simple piece of equipment that can be placed centrally in the vehicle so that all occupants can reach it. It cuts belts and breaks windows. Be aware that it will only break toughened glass, i.e. the side windows of most vehicles. These have come under some criticism because the hammering part has to be done quite aggressively and may take repeated hits to break the glass.

A piece of equipment that I've found to be very effective is the RESQME. Made by the same company as life hammer but, in my opinion, a lot more effective. It's got a sharp shielded blade which slices through belts easily and when you press it against the side glass, in the corner, the glass just shatters from the spring loaded Glaswegian being released. And then it resets itself; ready to be used again. And it's a key ring! And it works.

I recently and successfully tested one whilst on a first responder (First person on scene) course in the UK. And no, they didn't teach me how to steal someone's jacket whilst they were trapped inside the vehicle.

For peace of mind well worth the investment. They cost less than \$20! If you are based in East Africa, we have both in stock, otherwise if you are overseas try **Amazon, Ebay**, etc. Just don't test it on your own vehicle. Belt up. It makes sense.

NEW BOOK AND DVD ON BUSHVELD BIRDS

The Bushveld is one of the prime tourist destinations of South Africa, and frequented over week ends by thousands of people from Gauteng.

A welcome and handy addition to publications on the Bushveld, of which a copy should be in every 4 X 4, is the **Spotter's Guide to Birds of the Bushveld** just released.

This 192 page full colour pocket guide describes all 468 resident and visiting birds to the Bushveld, and promises that even the novice can identify an unknown bird within 60 seconds. Apart from a full colour photograph of each bird, the book includes many innovative features such as the Shapefinder and Duedex to assist with easy identification.

An electronic version of the book on DVD for computer is also available and includes the calls and sounds of more than 370 of the Bushveld birds. This part of the project was done in collaboration with the Sound Library of the Transvaal museum.

The book was written by prominent birders Saartjie Kidson and Herman van Niekerk, in collaboration with Warwick Tarboton, Jo Grosel and others. It has been fully endorsed by Birdlife South Africa and included by SASOL in its series of books on South African Birds. It is destined to become a collector's item as it is the first book in a series of South African regional bird guides.

The book and DVD is available in English and Afrikaans editions. This delightful little book is a must for every outdoor person. Contact 4buy4direct@mweb.co.za for pricing or purchase.

EXPLORE AFRICA ADVENTURES

Come and explore BOTSWANA with us in the comfort of your own 4X4 vehicle. We are Botswana specialists and probably one of the very few South African based Safari Operators in possession of a Botswana Tour Enterprise License. (since 1997)

The itinerary will take you to:

- Moremi Game Reserve – *The Jewel of Africa* - in the heart of the Okavango Delta. Moremi is a prime wildlife area where elephant, hippo, lion, buffalo, giraffe and most other game can be seen in abundance.
- The Savuti area is one of the most photographed areas in the whole of Africa and most of the Africa Wildlife Videos (Derek and Beverly Joubert's "Eternal Enemies" and others were filmed here.
- The Chobe is proud and very famous for its abundance of elephants – the highest concentration to be found anywhere in Africa. Chobe is also famous for its rich bird life and, not least for its boat cruises and exquisite sunsets – an Africa experience not to be missed.
- The Victoria Falls - approximately 1690m wide and very in height from 62m (Devil's Cataract) to 109m (Eastern Cataract). In comparison the Niagra Falls are 968m wide and 54m high. Various activities e.g. Bungi jumping, White River Rafting, Jet boating, Flight of the Angels etc. are available at the Falls.

For more information visit our award-winning website: www.explore-africa.co.za

e-mail: info@explore-africa.co.za

Tel/Fax: 012-6635319

Cell: 082 805 6765 (Office)

(January 2007)

Training Courses for 2008

2008 COURSES

Watch the newsletter and direct mail shots for further details and the program once it has been released. Tell your friends. Send email to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedbacks

BRIDGESTONE EVENT 9

The 9th and penultimate leg of the Bridgestone Challenge was hosted by the Gauteng based 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club. And given the nature of the club, the event was truly going to be an adventure, as the organizers decided to host the event....at night.

Labelled as the Urban Jungle Safari, competitors were warned to be 'Safari' ready, which already alluded that things were not going to be normal, as per the competition to date. Except for the dark, they were sure to be faced by some other daunting tasks. And they arrived en masse, just before the initial starting time. It was noted that vehicles suddenly had extra lights, recovery equipment and many more items not normally seen at the previous heats. The 'teasers' had worked. There was nervousness in the air.

The hosting club put on a splendid potjiekos dinner made by the infamous cook, tour guide and offroad legends Alex and Alta Smit, which was enjoyed by all. As the sun began to set in the West, the Bridgestone and Centurion Autoquip Sponsorship Team did the scrutineering and competitors waited for the final go ahead to venture into the 4 designated zones, for an evening of expected fun, in unknown terrain. The faces at the drivers briefing said it all. The unexpected was expected and the fear of the dark was real.

With a mix of teams into safari convoys, teams were now dispatched into different areas of the Scorpion Training Academy on the R55's farm, with each obstacle being in a circular loop from the previous. Well disciplined, fun loving marshals the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club managed each obstacle with care and enthusiasm, which added to the adventure. Each participant was thoroughly briefed at the entrance to each obstacle, with a twisted tale story to make it a real life situation. These included....*You have your trailer hitched and you are now being stormed by a raging elephant bull. Reverse through this obstacle.....* Frightening stuff when you think that a grade 3 obstacle becomes a natural grade 4-5 obstacle in the pitch darkness.

Zone 1 constituted obstacles such as the driving having to navigate a steep side slope entry into a donga, and continue traversing the donga which keeps changing its side slop angle, while the navigator does game spotting (real life size cut outs placed in the bush), without stopping. Then competitors tackled a fire extinguisher obstacle, followed by night tent erection against the clock and finally into the trailer reversing obstacle through a serious obstacle. Sounds easy, come out one weekend and we'll convince you it ain't!

Onto Zone 2, and competitors were challenged by a totally blacked out challenge using a GPS to find 5 designated points (buried pipes hosting unique numbers lit slightly by glow sticks), and the only light being that of the GPS unit! The terrain was not very accommodating, but it was a great lesson for all. Be prepared. Coming back to base, they all thought it was over, until Mr GPS, Kevin Bolton, gave them a bearing reading exercise in the dark, with a compass.

As the night progressed, the valley got darker and the competition stiffer. Competitors were fed from one Zone to the next by a central marshal, so as to keep the event from slowing down. At Zone 3, competitors were told to drive a level 1 training track, with some difficult obstacles thrown in, which could be fatal at night. Large uphill humps, with turning tracks on the descent, log bridges, water obstacles and side slopes all kept the tense lines across the faces of the competitors. The clue at this obstacle was simply – Drive the 1km track at a designated speed, and your time will be measured against the designated time for the event. This saw some funny delivery by some speedsters and some accurate driving by others. The time to deliver was 7.5 minutes!

Onto Zone 4, competitors were faced by more serious challenges. The first obstacle being a tricky, rocky hill crossing, with a long approach and a steep incline, where driving lines being critical. The mount of thuds were proof that drivers did not read the lines correct line. However, no serious damage was incurred by any vehicle – just a rude awakening to some.

After the descent, drivers stopped at the next obstacle which required both driver and navigator shooting at small metal targets in torch light, with a high powered air gun. It was amazing how most of the woman out performed the men at this obstacle. From here it was on to the next obstacle, which required a single attempt at a tyre repair in the dark, with the aid of a headlamp only. Eish, this one proved tough for some!

On to a tight banner tape section between the trees, which sorted the bigger vehicles from the smaller ones. The trees were cut unevenly, so navigators had to watch all around, which in its own rights was a serious challenge. Coming out of the trees, the vehicles arrived at the next challenge.

At this obstacle, the drivers were informed that they had been injured and were unable to drive any further. The navigators had to now take over and drive a timed event, through two donga's, and then a steep drop off into a dry dam, through a banner taped section and up a steep slope again on the opposite side. This certainly sorted the sheep from the wool! It is amazing how partners and navigators who never drive the vehicle can screw up a fairly simple instruction in the dark – drive! This obstacle was enjoyed tremendously by most.

From here, the competitors were forced to drive a serious side slope in the dark – a fearful experience for most in the light! And then onto the final obstacle, which was a reversing obstacle through a tree section on seriously unlevelled terrain.

With most teams returning to base at approximately 1am, they were treated to a very appreciated hotdog and coffee, and the final scores tallied. More great prizes from Bridgestone and the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club saw the teams give a great applause for a great, yet very different event. It was sincerely enjoyed by all.

The Bridgestone Challenge only has 1 more event left, is guaranteed to sort the top 6 teams, who are extremely close on points, from one another. We will report back on it later this year.

For more information on the 2008 Bridgestone Challenge, contact Johan Mostert on 4x4@bridgestone.co.za

BRIDGESTONE EVENT 10

See the December issue of the SA4x4 for a full version of this story.

BRIDGESTONE CHALLENGE PRIZE GIVING

At the Bridgestone Fundi 4x4 Challenge Award Ceremony, the club walked away with the coveted 2007 Club Spirit Award. The team of 5, consisting of Alan Goodway & Mike Collinge, Hendrik & Ivan Behrtel, Peet & Lynette Koekemoer, Morne & Natalie van der Westhuizen and Alan McCormack & Andre Oberholzer, indeed did us proud. Thank goodness for our 2 beauties, or else we may have won the Ugliest Bunch award!

The club was presented with an engraved stone plaque trophy, as well as each vehicle getting a certificate and 4 Bridgestone Offroad tires!

My sincere congratulations and thanks to one and all that participated, and yet again to all the members who helped in our hosted event - the attitude, friendliness and smoothness of that event certainly contributed to this award!

Now, any more participants for 2008's roving team, who wanna be part of the best club team in SA?

DE WILDT 4x4 DAY TRIP

At 07:50, 8 vehicles left the usual meeting place off the R55 and headed out towards Brits, for the final club day trip of the year. De Wildt 4x4 is a favourite amongst first timers and is more a nature drive, than an obstacle orientated trail and is also one of Mitsubishi's accredited 4x4 training venues.

After an eventless drive, the group arrived at De Wildt and while Morné took care of the financial and admin side of business, the rest of the group reserved one of the braai areas next to the swimming pool and deflated tires. It didn't take long before the convoy of 9 vehicles (one joined the group at the venue) hit the trail.

With more than 100mm rain coming down recently, the area was amazingly beautiful and the veld lush and green. De Wildt is famous for its abundance of wildlife and as we came to the turn-off to the first viewpoint, we were rewarded with a stunning herd of various animals, including Zebra and Giraffe, all with their young keeping a close, inquisitive eye on the convoy.

This is also where we faced our first obstacle; a slightly inclined axle-twister. Everyone in the group went through with no hassle and we made our way to the viewpoint, where we stretched our legs while gazing over the magnificent green valley below.

From the viewpoint, the route takes you further into the bush, with some more animal sightings along the way. After some zigzagging through a couple of dongas, the track brought us face-to-face with "Frik se Klip", a very uneven and bumpy rock face. This is not part of the trail per se and those brave enough had the opportunity to show "Frik" a thing or two. The entire group, except two, tried it and successfully, and without any damage, conquered "Frik se Klip".

The rest of the trail saw us negotiating some more dongas, a mud pit and some stunning animal sightings, including Eland and Bontebok. Arriving back at the lapa everyone headed for the shade, the fires were lit and picnic baskets dragged closer for cold refreshments. Some had other commitments and had to head back to their busy lives, some drove the newly constructed training track before departing and the rest enjoyed a picnic braai next to the swimming pool. It wasn't long before the sun and humidity started taking its toll, with Marius taking refuge in the cool, blue water.

Overall, a very enjoyable day was had by all. The trail is relaxing and it's clear why De Wildt is such a favourite in the industry. With stunning scenery, beautiful animals and an easy, relaxing drive with excellent facilities to wind down afterwards.

Morne van der Westhuizen - Guide

MAGALIESBURG MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY 4X4 OUTING.

Being almost the last weekend outing of the year with only the Tuli Block weekend still to come, this relaxing chill out site is certainly one of the best value for money places to go to, that is if you want lots of fresh air, no noise and lots of pleasant relaxing walks.

It's an easy short drive from Johannesburg and Pretoria, that's if you can get out early enough avoiding the Friday afternoon traffic and what makes this venue even better, is the drive is along uncongested routes with no tolls!

With the group being small, 12 of us in all, the weekend turned out to be a real intimate weekend. We all got to make new friends and when we said our farewells on Sunday, each were working out when they would be seeing one another again. "Will you be going to the meeting?" "OK, great see you there." "What about the next trip?" "Hey, that's great, we'll see you there too..." and so it went on.

Although the weekend weather forecast was for 60% rain, there was only one bad patch of weather that came through the camp. It was on Saturday morning which found some of us running back from our morning hike just making it back before the torrential rain and lightning hit. It literally started to drip whilst we were 100m out from our shortened +-4km walk, I reckon our timing was pretty good! We certainly didn't want to be caught out in the open, high up in the burg, exposed to lightning and rain with absolutely no cover whatsoever.

With the storm short lived, the blue sky opened up and a pleasant evening around the camp fire was had whilst watching the late evening sunset, the emerging evening stars and then the almost full moon rising in the East. What more did we want?

Sunday's weather was great, blue sky and just a few fluffy clouds which allowed everything to dry out properly before packing it all away ready for the next trip.

Some chose to walk on Sunday whilst others just chose to lounge around the pool and absorb the sun. What a great day it turned out to be.

It was around three when we packed up to leave with one family, who were so in love with the place, staying on for another day. Don't worry; we'll be going back again next year for those that missed out.

Jonathan & Jill Greengrass – Guides

FINAL ENTHUSIASTS MEETING – KEMPTON CARAVANS

The last meeting of 2007 was held at Kempton Caravans in Harmelia, Edenvale. With a great spread of eats and drinks yet again, Kempton Caravans hosted all attendees in grand style, with plenty of space for the attendees, a 100m² shop for last minute goodies, an on offer 10% discount on the evening and a great finale for the year.

In excess of 220 people arrived to listen to the speakers lined up on the evening. These included the latest Garmin Nuvi 710 an exciting new device for on / offroad usage by Kevin Bolton from Boltons GPS Warehouse. Then followed entertaining Hamilton Wende who shared his experiences under the label of Surviving in a Hostile Environment. As a journalist, writer, global survivor, he has been there, done that!

The latest BUSHTEC Products were introduced by Andre Naude, and Renier enlightened the audience to the latest Satellite Phone available at half the price. Once again, Kevin Bolton introduced all to the new GME 410 – a survival device for the outdoor enthusiast and overland traveller.

A very interesting talk was done by Clive Murphy on the Powerbrake – The new All Terrain Series, where Alan discussed the new DVD Book / Hard Copy book for birding enthusiasts in the Bushveld Region – Alan Goodway. Alan also discussed a new concept offroad caravan – the Kgalagadi Road Test, where a converted Sprite Scout has become bush aware. Finally a Winch Remote Controller was introduced by Petrus van Vuuren.

After a short break, the usual raffle was performed, where in excess of R25 000 prizes were given away. The 2nd prize was a stunning Nuvi 710 donated by Garmin SA via Boltons GPS Warehouse and the first prize of 4 All Terrain 4x4 Tyres were donated by Bridgestone SA.

What a year we have had with these great meetings and we look forward to another successful year next year.

The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy

ECHO CHOBE CAMPER VAN FOR SALE

2004 Echo Chobe Camper Van

4 Berth

Extra cupboard inside

Extra mounted tread plate cabinet with gas shower unit

Extra PVC cover for Chobe

Brand new Bridgestone Dueler tyres (3) – will ship with 4th spare

External shower tent

Extra windows at 1 bed

All standard features such as water tanks & automated system, gas system, battery etc. included

Cutlery & Crockery included with a few extras

Has awnings (L Shape)

Stone guard net included

1 Gas bottle included

Free lesson to your spouse to pitch Chobe by Charmaine!

Serviced, washed and polished – ready to go! New models sells for over R100 000! Offer to newsletter readers for only **R79 000 onco**. (Was R85000!)

URGENT SALE! EXCELLENT PRODUCT – OWNER UPGRADING TO CARAVAN

Alan Goodway - 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za / 082 603 8321

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ISUZU Accessories Double Cab: Fits models up to 2004

- Roof rack. Aluminium. Black powder -coated. Flat bed with railing. Three legs per side on rubber foot. Professionally designed and manufactured. Toggle tie downs. R 2850.00
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- Spare wheel with 30 000km left. Mag rim. R 850.00
- Gas bottle holders. Black powder coated aluminium. Can be bolted on racks. R 180.00 each
- Maintenance spares. Diesel Air and oil filters, brake pads and brake linings. All new - Less 30%
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Contact. Johan Lötter 082 929 1072 or 012 658 0088

DEFENDER FOR SALE

Hi Alan,

We have a 2003 Defender double cab (63 000km) for sale as it is no longer required. It is in excellent condition and if a member is interested they can view it at:

<http://www.gumtree.co.za/capetown/84/13304384.html>

Thank you so much.

Regards,

Dickie Firfirey

Project Manager

Fascination Wigs : Frika

Ph: 021 5116767 Fax: 021 511 6766

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Flat Wheel – Light Relief

As it is Christmas, I have decided to place only one insert here, focussing on our beloved children and their grandparents – they are very good.

Grandchildren

She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!"

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "62." He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last she headed for the door, saying sagely, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!"

When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use, Grandpa. The mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "mine says I'm four to six."

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "how do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

MOZHELP – A MUST HAVE EMERGENCY NUMBER

We would just like to introduce ourselves. We are MOZHELP. We specialise in providing Emergency Assistance Service to travellers to Mozambique. So, if you are planning a trip or know someone that is going to Mozambique please read on or feel free to forward this detail to others.

MOZHELP consists of a number of professional service providers who provide emergency medical services, lawyers, doctors, roadside and security assistance services in Mozambique.

For more details about MOZHELP emergency services in Mozambique please visit our website at www.mozhelp.co.za We have an extensive network of service providers in Mozambique that will be able to assist you in every possible emergency from medical emergency, legal, vehicle breakdown, and security.

Please consider this for your own safety and well-being. Thank you and have a safe trip.

Contact:

Reghardt Meyer
MOZHELP
CNR OF INBANI AND MARULA STREET,
MALELANE

TEL 013-7900265
FAX 013 7900427
CELL 0829400140

JANUARY 2007

Preferred Suppliers - Gauteng

If anyone has any good things to say about suppliers I would like to include them here. Lets support those who do a good job for the club. Similarly if anyone has had a bad experience lets share it and vote with our wallets by avoiding them.

1) ECHO ACCESSORIES 4x4 CENTRE – NEW STORE!

Visit Willie, Rochelle, Neil, Phillip or any one of the other professional representatives at the new Echo 4x4 Centre situated in the Route 21 Corporate Park, 9 Regency Avenue, Irene (off Nelmapius Drive (off the R21)).

Echo can supply you with all your 4x4 requirements from offroad trailers, quad bike trailers, Echo Chobe Campers, roof top and trailer top tents, full 4x4 fitment centre, custom products, 4x4 accessory shop, trailer rental and even more. Be sure to visit the new instore refreshment café.

Call 012 – 345 3333, Fax 012 345 3343 or email: echoacc@mweb.co.za. Web: www.echo4x4.co.za

2) 4x4 INSURANCE

Phillip Viljoen Insurance Brokers has a special deal for all 4x4 enthusiasts, if you tell him you saw this advert. Qualify for great discount. Contact leisuresure@webspeed.co.za or on 083 306 5657 / Fax (012) 542 3564.

Speak to Phillip (club member)

3) BOLTONS GPS WAREHOUSE / KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS

For top deals, training and advice on GPS equipment contact Kevin (club member).

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za / marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za / www.gpsconsultants.co.za

4) FRONT RUNNER

Front Runner will offer any club member, on production of their club card, a 10% discount on the purchase of any Front Runner produced product.

Call Wayne Heath-Coombe (club member) now.

1 Forssman Close, Dytchley Road, Barbeque Downs, Kyalami

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www.frontrunner.co.za

5) 4x4 MEGAWORLD

10% on ALL products in their larger than ever warehouse. What an offer. From camping gear, 4x4 gear, outdoor gear, the lot!!!! Their warehouse is now bigger and better and definitely worth a visit.

Club members, as one of the few places that give is 10% on anything!, it is well worth the visit. Speak to any of their well trained staff!

Unit 5, Herman Road, Meadowdale (off Barbara Road)

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megaworld@oldmanemu.co.za

6) SAFARI CENTRE - NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD DEAL

5% discount when paying with a credit card & 10% discount for cash.

Products excluded for discount:

- * GPS's
- * Leatherman products
- * Any specials currently running
- * Magazines, books, maps

7) HONEYDEW TOYOTA & RV CENTRE

Contact Johan Kruger (club member) for all your Toyota and other accessories at their RV Centre. New Honeydew Toyota Showroom (opposite THE COCA COLA DOME) - refer http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/lmg_upload_departments/3674_441636.gif for map. Address is Olievenhout Street, off Northumberland, which runs parallel with the N1 & the R28.

8) KEMPTON CARAVANS - KEMPTON PARK - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

The discount to the 4x4 community and members of our club is 10% off their listed prices. This will be on presentation of the club membership card. This shop has EVERYTHING. Customisation of tents etc. on site! Speak to Larry, Brian (both club members) or any of the staff in the shop.

9) M-CENTRE - Quality Mechanics - Centurion Area

These are the guys I have been using for 3 years after I walked out of the local Toyota Work shop in Centurion one day. Quality service, excellent workmanship and unbeatable pricing. Any make, but great on Toyota's. Also the Merc or the BMW - these are their specialities. Call Les or Danie on 012 653 7855 now for a booking or discussion on your vehicle.

10) OUTDOOR WAREHOUSE - CENTURION

The suppliers of a wide range of camping, climbing, paddling, hiking and 4x4 accessories and goods, this store is a worthwhile venue to spend some quality time in. Close to the high way (N1), off the John Voster turn off in Centurion. No discount offered, just good service!

11) GOING PLACES 4x4, CENTURION - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

14 Botha Avenue, Lyttleton. For your entire 4 x4 and camping needs. All members get 5% on presentation of club card. Contact Ron or Christo on (012) 664 7609

12) 4-BUY-4 DIRECT STORE - Mail Order Outlet

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