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JANUARY 2012

OFFROAD & OUTDOOR e-ZINE

Published by Isibonela Adventures cc as a Public Service

Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there enthusiasts,

Can you believe it. Only 10.5 months till our next annual holiday to the coast. Man, you wipe your eyes out and the first month of the year is gone. Missing. Klaar! Eish. I was telling somebody (or trying) how busy these first three working weeks of 2012 have been, and lost myself in realising what all we have done already. By the third week in January, we had already planned 14 events for the start of the year, with many more to come. Day trips, weekends away, first 2 long hauls and much more. Then I realised this morning, finally, how busy I am. All my December sea sand from Knysna is lying thick across my rubber mats and carpets in my car still. No man! Best I get that sorted tomorrow – my first Sunday off!

The heat has also been killing us. Climate change is definitely taking a whack on all of us. With the regular #2 brush cut on the old head nowadays, I can definitely feel that the intensity of the sun has increased somewhat. Avoid skin cancer people, wear sun block – even to work! With this change in the climatic system, we have once again seen scares of Malaria hitting Pretoria. Carried in, or resident, still to be debated, but the cases are increasing and the reality dawning – we must be alert! Those buzzing bugs can just be fatal.

Well the outdoor industry is alive and well. The launch of the Big 5 in the Campworld stable has certainly put a new twist on things. Competitors are now working together. Well done. Co-Operation has long been a mind-set for the mature – but our industry seems to rather squabble and stab each other in the back, than realising there is a piece of the pie for everybody. Your cream helping, simply comes with excellent customer service and doing the right thing, the first time. You boys show us how it is done. We are watching with interest.

Speaking to some of the influential players in the market, it is evident, much as it became in our circles last year, that the lodgers are coming down to the camping environment. However, as money is not necessary an issue, they demand good product, good service and good venues. May they find that! The more people we have who responsibly enjoy our great outdoors the better. We love it. From a clubbing point of view, it introduces new blood, new enthusiasm and energy, and from a business point of view, it stimulates the outdoor economy.

Talking about responsible. We this morning had a 4x4 DCC certificate handover ceremony, which was well attended, where we handed out some of the certificates of the latest batch of over 60 people who have successfully completed their 4x4 Driver Unit Standard Competency Assessment. Isibonela Adventures is now becoming known for its no corners cut, professional approach to training in the industry, and the feedback, even from the die-hards, is extremely positive and heart-warming. At least we are doing it right. We are now training some of the most

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professional safari operators across the country, training the instructors of a very professional 4x4 driving academy, been approached by another, training the public, other 4x4 clubs and our own club members too. The Norms and Standards are awaiting signature by the Minister, the TETA SETA has published its upcoming strategy w.r.t pricing, so we encourage people to train. The reality, it will one day be required /law, so make use of the opportunities now. Simply send me an email, and I will send you the details.

Oh, we were talking about the industry, Late last year we saw Big Country 4x4 and African Outback join forces, and most recently, the Imperial Holdings Group buying a large stake of Safari Centre. Imperial also procured the CI stable last year, so it seems they are aggressively going for the major share of the outdoor market. Interesting! I still maintain, even in the current market space, it's time for a fresh player. Should be fun! We will continuously support those who offer us a good service and offering, as ultimately it's not always about price. I prefer a good relationship with my suppliers, as they are there for us, as much as we are there for them. However, support local – we need to stimulate the economy and keep South African's employed.

The neighbouring states are at it again. Stricter controls are coming everywhere. Check out the fiasco in Botswana, which was luckily stopped at 99, until more meetings are held. Full story in the newsletter. I do however agree with the cross border people that South African's must behave themselves in other countries, that local operators must get their fair share of the drive in business, but at a fair price, and an excellent service. Having unqualified guides for hectic fees is just not on. Soon we will get our convoys to become smaller, and enter these countries as self-drive tourists, as they see our clubs as professional operators too.

Now that we have a crisis in the Rhino Poaching (see stats elsewhere) in SA, our striking Park Officials are certainly not helping! Hope they sort it soonest, so that we can try and protect our pride and joy! Its getting ridiculous now. Glad to see the Government stepping in. Hope it works.

December we had the privilege of driving the Knysna Forest Trail again, and were we elated to be shown sever damage done by the elephant in some gates in the forest, droppings, and serious 'in must' activity by the local bull. So yes folks, they are there for the non-believers. It was certainly part of the fulfilling trip! We will be back this year again. Interested to join us in December – we are planning already, so drop me a line.

Finally, we are off to drive the Faces of the Dunes trip with URI Adventures from 31 March 2012 to the 9 April 2012, and have a sudden unplanned vacancy. The trip with extra camping fees included for the up and down trips, is still cheaper than the 2012 trip fee, so indeed a bargain. Wanna join us an 'E-Zine Readers Ride', then give me a shout. I need to fill this asap.

That's it for now. A bumper issue to start with! Be safe!

Yours in 4x4ing.



Alan Goodway (GP 1796)
Editor (voluntary!)

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About This Newsletter

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Calendar of Training / Events

Herewith find training opportunities / events with the Isibonela Adventures, and its professional associates, offered to the public. Courses only run if sufficient numbers subscribe. Errors and omissions reserved. Please enquire to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

Date	Event	Venue
25 & 29 January 2012	4x4 Driver Competency Certificate (DCC) Training	Midrand / Bronkhorstspuit (FULL / COMPLETE)
17 – 19 February 2012	Beeld Outdoor Show –Gallagher Estate	Midrand
29 February & 4 March 2012	4x4 Driver Competency Certificate (DCC) Training	Midrand / Bronkhorstspuit (FULL)
3 March 2012	Reach for a Dream 4x4 Fund Day Challenge	Rhino 4x4 Trail, Cullinan District
10 & 11 March 2012	4x4 Driver Competency Certificate (DCC) Training	Southern Cape District (FULL)
14 & 18 March 2012	4x4 Driver Competency Certificate (DCC) Training	Midrand / Bronkhorstspuit
17 & 18 March 2012	GPS Software, Mapping & Navigation Course	Centurion
12 & 15 April 2012	4x4 Driver Competency Certificate (DCC) Training	Midrand / Bronkhorstspuit
5 May 2012	Mapping Course	Centurion
TBA (Several Dates)	Wilderness First Aid Course	Centurion
TBA (Several Dates)	Bush Mechanics Course	Centurion
TBA (Several Dates)	Firefighting for Campers	Centurion
TBA (Several Dates)	Camp Cooking	Centurion

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Roads to Roam Adventure Holidays

ZIMBABWE ANYONE??

If the year has already been too long and the days in the office is driving you up the walls, we have availability on an island in the Limpopo River in the Tuli Block from 21 – 25 March 2012. Accommodation is in luxury en suite tents and one can sit in front of your tent watching the elephants drink in the river (nothing guaranteed!). Recent sightings include wild dog and cheetah. Cost is ZAR950.00.00 per person per day, inclusive of all meals and two game drives per day. The lodge can be reached by sedan but if you prefer, transfers can be done from the Pontdrift border post at an additional cost. Please contact us for further information.

Botswana has proposed almost 300% increase in their national park fees for 2012 (from P120 per person per day to P350 per person per day). The increase has not been confirmed yet and word from the campsites and lodges in Botswana is that they will know the new pricing in April 2012 – and we can expect an immediate increase in park fees once the decision is final!

In the meantime we are still doing reservations at the 2011 park fees before the increase come into effect. So if you plan to visit Botswana in the near future, contact us now to make the reservations at 2011 rates. It would appear Botswana is soon going to be out of reach for the average person's pocket and with that in mind, I have set up a visit in February to the parks and campsites in Zimbabwe to explore the facilities and safety concerns.

December and January saw us travelling 6,742km to Northern Mozambique and back to Johannesburg, scuba diving at the dive sites along the way – a long road but the diving was superb. People were friendly and although their English is as limited as my Portuguese, we managed to buy Portuguese bread rolls, mangoes, pineapples and cashew nuts from roadside stalls. A fascinating visit to a local "supermarket" (size 3m x 5m and produce stacked to the ceiling) set us up with cold drinks, fruit juice, long life yoghurt (made in South Africa!) and 3 slabs of chocolate. Fortunately we came prepared with 3 jars of Nescafe coffee – Mozambique only stocks Ricoffy and certainly has never heard of Ouma rusks.

The fish sold from local fishermen on the beach was fresh and delicious cooked on the fire. A visit to Mozambique is not complete without a large serving of LM prawns and just be sure that it tasted as good as we thought, we had prawns four times! We even ended up in a typical local restaurant where the menu consisted of "frango" or "lulas" – we opted for the "lulas" and left the chicken for when we get back to Johannesburg. That was one great calamari steak!

So we have unexplored possibilities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique for the future. Watch this space... Happy roaming!

Lizette Swart

Roads to Roam Adventure Holidays

Cell: +27 83 22 631 22

Email: info@roadstoroom.co.za / FB: <http://www.facebook.com/roads.toroam>

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

BIG FIVE CARAVAN DEALERS, BIG ON EXPERIENCE, BIG ON DEALS, BIG ON SERVICE

A new and exciting alliance of five of South Africa's top caravan dealers. The composition of The Big Five, as the group is known, is made up of five caravan dealers strategically positioned around South Africa. The owners of the privately owned and managed dealerships are active Dealer Principals who between them have nearly 200 years experience in the industry, and are all in the Jurgens CI stable. Add in the years of service of all their highly experienced staff members, and the combined number will be a staggering 1000 years plus!

The grouping comprises Kempton Caravans, (1983 – 2011) situated in Kempton Park, Johannesburg and Tygerberg Caravans ((1983 – 2011) in Cape Town, owned and managed respectively by Larry Kreuiter and Ben Barber who both worked for a number of years together in the marketing department of CI Caravans before setting out to open their own dealerships. On the Western side of Johannesburg the Grouping is represented by Kennis Caravans (1966 – 2011) of Krugersdorp, now owned and ably managed by Allan Vos who joined Kennis in 1984. Spreading the representation further is GC Caravans of Witbank owned and run by Gordon Hammond who first became involved in the caravan industry with East Vaal Caravans way back. In another strategic position from the holiday maker's perspective and central to the Greater Durban and KZN Country and Coastal areas is Natal Caravans & Marine (1960-2011) of Pinetown the longest serving caravan dealer in South Africa, owned and managed jointly by Brian Courtis (1968 – 2011) and his son Geoff (1990 – 2011) who also worked for a number of years in the Marketing department of CI Caravans before joining the family business.

By pooling their advertising and marketing budgets and their vast experience in these matters, the five will be in a position to embark on joint advertising and promotional campaigns in the National media, previously out of their individual reach because of budgetary constraints. In combining the joint buying power of the Group it is their intention to bring to the market a variety of special deals on the various caravan and outdoor products they sell and also to source new products where possible. These promotions will be presented to the market by way of a series of open week ends, held simultaneously at the five centers and advertised through the National media. An unselfish interchange of caravan stock amongst each Big Five member will help to ensure that a member dealer should always be in a better position to satisfy a customer wanting a particular new or used caravan.

Another primary objective is to ensure that customers of any Big Five dealer receives service and attention of the same standard of excellence in another geographical area, in the event of any break down or warranty problem, from one of the other member dealers, as if the customer were his own. Considering the strategic positioning of the five outlets this will be extremely good news for caravanners travelling away from home on holiday. "To become the Campworld Dealers of Choice in our respective areas" is the primary objective of the grouping that will constantly be

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bringing to the market new unique customer friendly products and concepts such as extended warranties on caravans and roadside assistance, to name just two which will be offered shortly.

ENTER the great celebratory photographic competition at www.campworldsbig5.co.za ,from where you follow the links to the competition page.

AND THEN, ANOTHER TWO LOCAL 4x4 BUSINESSES MERGE

Late last year, the industry was taken by surprise when local 4x4 accessory manufacturers, African outback and Big Country 4x4 announced the merger of African outback Products, African outback Trucks and Big Country 4x4.

They stated that this exciting new development provides a fantastic opportunity to all their customers, staff and suppliers.

The passion that drives these businesses is now combined into a single powerful platform, which elevate all their products, existing brands, innovative "best of breed" developments and services to new levels of excellence, says Adolf and Richard.

AND THE INDUSTRY TELLS US.....

..that Imperial Holdings have purchased the Safari Centre business, bar the two privately owned operations in the Western and Eastern Cape...

DRIVE A LANDY – AWARE OF THE WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT?

Tune into <http://landyfestival.co.za/world-record>

TOYOTA OWNERS BEWARE

Deur Hilda Fourie

Toyota se Hilux en Fortuner-modelle was die laaste paar maande die gunsteling onder diewe. Ao. Annabelle Middleton, polisiewoordvoerder, het gesê dit lyk of daar 'n sindikaat is wat hulle op Hiluxe, Land Cruisers en Fortuners toespits. Juis omdat Hiluxe en Fortuners sulke hoërisiko-voertuie is, het die Gautrein-bestuur by stasies spesifieke plekke waar dié voertuie geparkeer word, het me. Kelebogile Machaka, woordvoerder van Bombela, wat die Gautrein bedryf, aan Seugnet Esterhuyse bevestig.

Volgens Machaka is veiligheidsbeamptes op alle Gautrein-stasies deur die polisie ingelig dat dié voertuie deur diewe geteiken word. Hoewel alle voertuie in die parkeerterreine opgepas word, hou veiligheidsbeamptes 'n spesiale oog oor Hiluxe en Fortuners, het Machaka gesê.

Mnr. Riaan Roux, wat die Gautrein daagliks gebruik, het gesê hy het aanvanklik gedink dit is 'n "foefie" toe veiligheidsbeamptes op die Hatfield-stasie in Pretoria hom vra om sy Hilux naby die ingang te parkeer.

"Ek het gedink dit is 'n scam sodat hulle my voertuig makliker kan steel," het Roux gesê. "Toe ek eendag by my voertuig op die tweede verdieping kom, was die wiewe vasgeklamp en het veiligheidsbeamptes om my bakkie gestaan. "Hulle het gevra ek moet naby die ingang parkeer sodat hulle 'n oë daarvoor kan hou, want 'n hele paar voertuie is gesteel.

"Sedertdien parkeer ek op die spesiale plek wat net vir Hiluxe en Fortuners is. Die voertuie word

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versper." Middleton het gesê daar is Saterdag tussen 06:00 en 12:00 drie Hiluxe en twee Land Cruisers in onderskeidelik Lynnwood, Constantiapark en Waterkloofrif, almal in die ooste van Pretoria, gesteel.

Volgens Middleton is dit al sowat 'n jaar dat diewe Toyota-voertuie teiken. Die meeste van dié voertuie ry in die rigting van Soweto. Dié wat teruggekry word, is gestroop aan die binnekant. Dié res word na Mosambiek en Swaziland geneem, sê sy.

Opspoorders van twee opsporingsmaatskappye wat anoniem wil bly, het gesê die Hilux en Fortuner besorg hulle die meeste probleme en word byna weekliks gesteel. "Dié voertuie is ons prioriteit. As een gesteel word, vlieg die helikopter dadelik en ons word uitgestuur," het 'n opspoorer gesê.

"Die voertuig met die VVT-i-enjin pas presies in die Toyota Quantum in, wat 'n taxi is. Die res gaan landuit." Mnr. Leo Kok, korporatiewe kommunikasiebestuurder van Toyota Suid-Afrika, het gesê die polisie het Toyota in 2010 ingelig dat sy voertuie geteiken word.

"Die polisie het ons gewys hoe die diewe die voertuie steel. Ons het in samewerking met die polisie 'n meganiese stelsel ontwerp en verfyn om te keer dat dit gebeur. "Die stelsel kan in enige Hilux en Fortuner aangebring word," het Kok gesê.

MAFUNYANE ADVENTURES

Mafunyane Adventures specialises in guided self-drive 4x4 tours into some of Southern Africa's most remote wilderness areas. All tours are guided by qualified, experienced off-road guides to ensure you and your family's safety at all times.

Tours vary between catered and non-catered trips with catered tours including breakfast and dinner daily. All tours include all accommodation, park fees and guide fees.

Discounted rates available to all 4x4 Offroad Adventure & Mafunyane Eco Club members.

Central Kalahari Game Reserve (17-23 March)

R5 450-00 per person (Non-Members)

R4 750-00 per person (Club Members)

Non-Catered

Northern Namibia/Kaokoland (21 April – 5 May)

R7 850-00 per person (Non-Members)

R6 850-00 per person (Club Members)

Catered

Baines Baobabs/Okavango Delta (2-10 June)

R4 400-00 per person (Non-Members)

R 3 800-00 per person (Club Members)

Non-Catered

For more information on any of our tours, please visit www.mafunyaneadventures.com or e-mail Desiree Bekker on desiree@mafunyaneadventures.com

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MORE BAD NEWS....

Media Release: Eight rhino carcasses found in Kruger

Date: 11th January 2012

The South African National Parks (SANParks) has announced in a statement today that while in an intensified patrols in the various parts of the Kruger National Park (KNP) yesterday (Tuesday, 10 January 2012) rangers found eight (8) carcasses with their horns missing in two sections of the park.

This according to SANParks General Manager, Media Liaison & Stakeholder Relations, Reynold Thakhuli who said three (3) carcasses were found in Lower Sabie and five (5) in the Pretoriuskop section of the park.

Thakhuli said investigations are underway and already the members of the South African Police Services are working on few leads. "We call upon anyone with information to contact the nearby SAPS."

Issued by: Communications Division, South African National Parks

HOW BAD IS THE RHINO POACHING – SOME STATS

Received from a e-Zine reader, Kai Vogel – Thanks bud, we need to see these things!!!

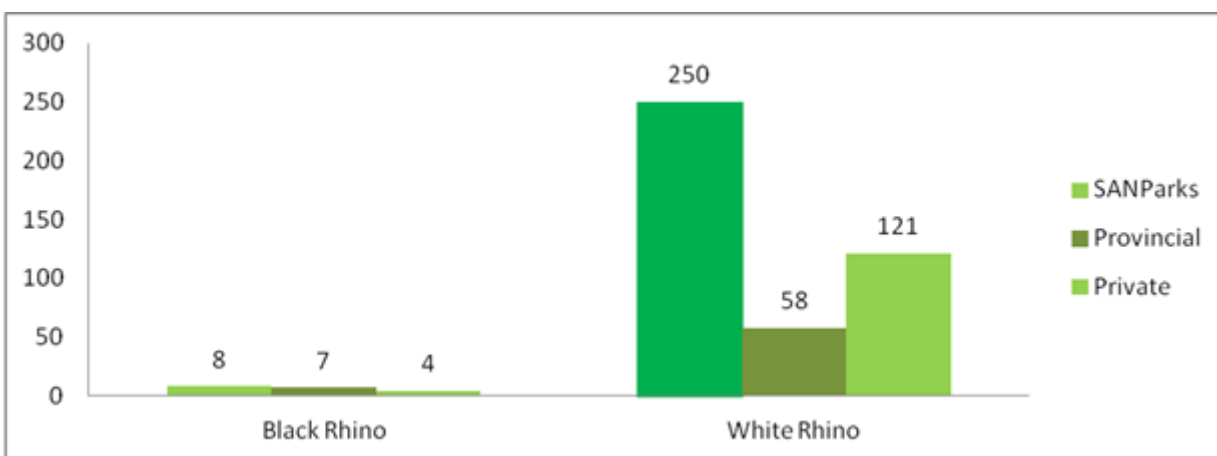
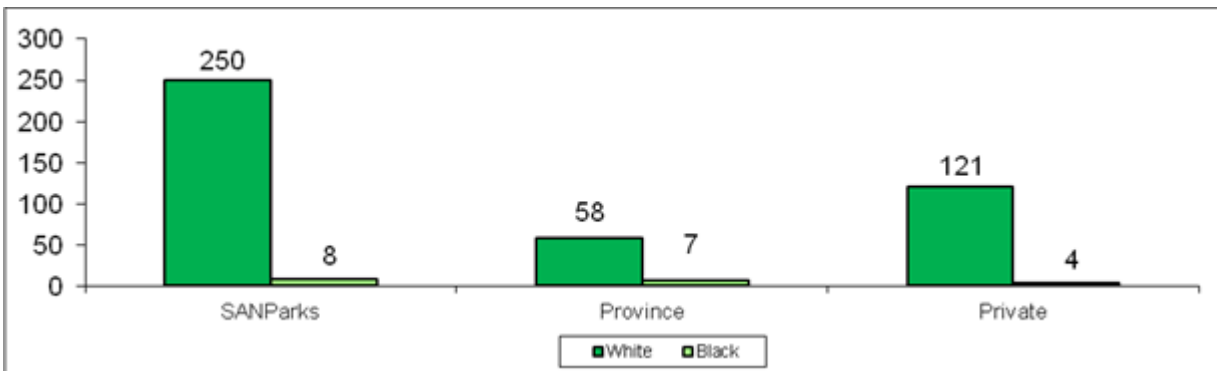
	SANParks		Province		Private		Total
	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	
KNP	8	244	0	0	0	0	252
MNP	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Gauteng	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
Limpopo	0	0	0	4	4	65	73
Mpumalanga	0	0	0	9	0	22	31
North West	0	0	4	11	0	7	22
East Cape	0	0	0	5	0	6	11
Free State	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
KZN	0	0	3	25	0	6	34
West Cape	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
North Cape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	250	7	58	4	121	448

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South Africa - Arrests	2011	2010
KNP (KNP)	82	67
MNP	0	0
Gauteng (GP)	16	10
Mpumalanga (MP)	73	16
Eastern Cape (EC)	2	7
Limpopo (LP)	34	36
North West (NW)	21	2
Free State (FS)	0	0
KZN (KZN)	4	25
Western Cape (WC)	0	2
Northern Cape (NC)	0	0
Total	232	165

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Kind regards
Ken A R Maggs
Senior General Manager
Environmental Management Inspector (EMI), Environmental Crime Investigation & Air Services
Conservation Services Division, SANParks

WATCH THAT CAR-JAMMING, IT IS STILL POPULAR!!!!

More than 30 incidents of car-jamming theft are taking place in the high end shopping malls and primary schools of Sandton each week. On Tuesday, a dramatic early morning shootout unfolded at Bryanston Parallel Medium Primary School between police officers and a man in a black Subaru believed to be a remote control jamming thief.

The school had been on alert after several incidents recently. During the morning drop-off rush on Tuesday, a security guard handing out flyers warning of the trend became suspicious of a man in a Subaru who was holding a handbag, and took down the registration before alerting the police. When police arrived, the man shot at them. Officers fired back, but the man escaped. No one was injured in the incident. According to a security guard at the school, last week a woman in a Toyota Fortuner reported that her handbag and laptop had been stolen while she was dropping her child off.

Then on Friday, a man, also in a Fortuner, reported the theft of his laptop. On Monday, a woman, who had dropped off her child at the school and had stopped at a grocery store, noticed that her handbag and laptop were missing.

The Star understands that at least four primary schools in Sandton have been hit since November – and incidents have been reported at Sandton City and the Hobart shopping centre in Bryanston. A police source, who could not be named, said on average there were over 40 incidents of theft out of vehicles reported in Sandton each week. Of these, 85 percent were thefts in which jamming took place.

In the scam, criminals use domestic remote controls to interfere with the signal of the car remote, preventing the car from being locked. When the motorists are out of sight, they open the vehicle. Just hours after the shootout on Tuesday, Rivonia Primary School sent out SMS alerts to parents warning them about the anti-locking scam.

But school governing body deputy chairwoman Disebo Moephuli said she wasn't aware of any incidents at the school. Sandton police spokeswoman Captain Kym Cloete confirmed four schools were hit in Sandton since November and said the scam started at shopping malls. Sandton Community Police Forum chairwoman Wendy Vorster-Robertson said primary schools were softer targets as most parents walked their small children to class. "Most of the parents are going to work and would have valuables in their car that they don't want to take in with them," she said.

At malls there has been a constant increase in incidents over the past 10 months. Some crooks watched motorists pull up while others targeted shoppers who dropped off their purchases and returned to the mall, Vorster-Robertson said.

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Servaas du Plessis, CEO of Censeo, an insurance industry assessing and verification company, said while there was not an increase in incidents nationally, some of the high-end shopping malls in Sandton, Menlyn and Durban had been hit. Sandton City refused to comment. Gareth Kemp of the Hobart centre in Bryanston said that in two incidents last year, laptops were taken from cars. Retail Motor Industry CEO Jeff Osborne said they became aware of the trend, in which ordinary remotes were used to jam locking devices, about 18 months ago.

Because car remotes were electronic transmitters, there was not a "great deal" that could stop it. "The only way is for motorists to be more vigilant when they lock their cars, to hear the audible click and then to even test the door. It's the sad reality," Osborne said. - The Star

GOVT TO INTENSIFY FIGHT AGAINST RHINO KILLING

Government continues to explore ways to curb the increasing killing of rhinos in South Africa, including the possibility of dehorning the animals, Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa said on Sunday, 15 January 2012. About 24 rhinos have been killed in South Africa since the beginning of this month, while figures from the South African National Parks (SANPARKS) show that 448 rhinos were killed for their horns last year alone. The most affected areas were said to be in Limpopo and North West provinces.

Experts say the spike in poaching in Africa and South Asia was largely caused by increased demand for rhino horns in Asian traditional medicine. There are still many myths associated with the rhino horn in some Asian countries like China and Vietnam, where it is believed that the horn can heal fever, enhance sexual performance and reduce chances of stroke.

Molewa said it was clear that authorities needed to up their game in curbing the poaching of rhinos. "It is clear that this is an organised crime and in dealing with organised criminals, we need input and action from all South Africans."

She said a study conducted had indicated that the decision on whether or not to dehorn a rhino population depended on a number of factors, including the level of poaching threat, the availability of funds and the size of the rhino population in question.

"Due to the invasive nature of and expenses associated with dehorning, the intervention should only be considered under conditions of relatively severe poaching threat," Molewa said. A continuing study commissioned by government will also look into whether legalising trade in rhino horn could help to bring down poaching.

Other measures include the establishment of the National Wild Life Reaction Unit, which authorities are hoping will help in information sharing and curbing poaching in South Africa's largest parks.

Molewa said the South African National Defence Force has also been returned to monitor the 350km of the national border in Kruger National Park. Most of the country's rhinos are found in Kruger Park, leading to many cases of poaching being reported there.

While the alarming figures of rhino killing in the country had raised concerns among animal rights groups and activists, SANPARKS said it was not yet time to press panic buttons. According to the organisation's CEO David Mabuza, there are around 22 000 rhinos in South Africa, accounting for

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93% of the world's rhino population. The rhino population is said to be growing at a rate of 6% a year.

"So while all of us should be worried, it should be noted that the killings have not yet threatened the rhino population in general. But if we continue at this rate (of killing), we will start seeing a decline by 2015," Mabuza said. SANPARKS needs about 1600 additional rangers to patrol in the Kruger National Park but this would mean an additional R200 million in the budget.

(And now they wanna strike – Eish! Ed.)

"NOW" WILL DISSAPPEAR AND NEW STRUCTURES TO BE FORMED IN 2012

Significant changes to NOW to give effect to the draft Norms and Standards in so far as Co-Regulation is concerned. (It is already FEBRUARY and we have not heard anything yet!!! Ed)

The final draft Norms and Standards have been submitted to DEA. Initial feedback is that the Public Consultation Phase will only happen in the first quarter next year, 2012. Our sincerest thanks for the constructive manner of your participation and your support during this process to set-up our own legal framework for co-regulation of the recreational off-road sector.

However, we did take note of several key questions that were raised during this process, and especially with regard to industry representation, better communication strategies and long-term funding for the NOW / Co-Regulatory Board processes. The NOW team took these inputs to heart, and through several internal processes, we revisited a number of areas. This communication is to inform you that NOW will:

- Continue with the momentum provided with the completed Norms and Standards and plan to initiate the establishment of the Co-Regulatory Board (provisionally named the South African Off-Road Industry Council) within the next 5 months, in anticipation of the legal mandate to implement registration and Norms and Standards;
- Instead of rectifying representation challenges for NOW, to address these changes as part of the establishment of the South African Off-Road Industry Council;
- Instead of pouring effort and time into NOW communication strategies and tools, to rather develop and implement proper and meaningful communication strategies and tools for the South African Off-Road Industry Council;
- Address the fundraising risks and future financial viability as part of the establishment of the South African Off-Road Industry Council;
- Prevent the scenario where the off-road sector have two Boards i.e. the current NOW or Representative Board AND a legally empowered Co-Regulatory Board (South African Off-Road Industry Council). This would have obvious duplication of effort, time, costs, as well as inherent risks regarding governance and mandates. Therefore the South African Off-Road Industry Council will be established to address both the representative and regulatory functions;
- Take the lessons learned over the past 6 years, combined with the National Off-Road Strategy from 2008, and develop the next 5 year Strategic Action Plan collaboratively for the South African Off-Road Industry Council to give effect to Norms and Standards (legal mandate) as well as Responsible Tourism, Socio-economic transformation, Partnerships / Networks and Co-Regulation.

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In Practical Terms:

- The current NOW Board will be terminated and cease to be operational by the end of March 2012;
- The new South African Off-Road Industry Council will be established to be operational by the 01 April 2012;

To give effect to the above, NOW will:

- Rationalise the current staff complement due to current funding challenges as well as to reflect these anticipated changes. The current NOW staff positions are:
 - o National Convener, that was responsible for the representative function of the NOW Board
 - o National Director, that was responsible for the regulatory functions (Norms and Standards)

These two staff positions will be "rationalised" into a single position that will be:

- o Managing Director / CEO, responsible for the conclusion of the NOW Board, the establishment of the South African Off-Road Industry Council and especially the implementation / piloting of the Norms and Standards.
- o Further appointments will reflect the need to implement the duties of the South African Off-Road Industry Council, including the Norms and Standards, and may include positions such as Trails and Track officers and Registration officers, etc.
- Host a series of workshops with the Executive committee's of the various Associations (AAWDC, OGATO, SANOTA, SAROOF) to discuss in more detail the above communication, the implications and roll-out plan (ASAP, or at least before the Geographical Workshops);
- Host three geographical workshops, open to the off-road sector, to discuss these changes in detail and to provide platforms to gather input from the off-road sector (by the mid of November 2011). **(DELAYED TO 2012. Ed)**
- Continuous communication throughout the process, NOW will establish a temporary website for information sharing purposes. The current website will be one communication point that will eventually direct people to the new website.

We trust you will find the above communication in line with our efforts to optimally pave the way for the implementation of the new legal framework, the Norms and Standards, for the Off-Road sector. We will shortly contact you to set-up the workshop session with the Association Executive committee's as well as to provide dates and venues for the industry geographical workshops (Cape Town, Durban and Gauteng)

Yours faithfully

Now Chairman - Maurice Britten

GAUTENG E-TOLLING HALTED

The e-tolling system in Gauteng, which was due to commence next month, has been placed on hold. Many Gauteng motorists have been threatening to boycott the entire tolling system by refusing to pay the fees or register for their e-toll accounts to get their e-tags. Numerous petitions against the system were circulated.

Registrations kicked off in November, with SANRAL urging motorists to become "e-toll ready" by ensuring they have an e-tag, register for an e-toll account and fit their e-tag on the inside of their





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windscreen.

Motorists have complained about the unaffordability of toll tariffs, despite government reassessing them and making them cheaper. New tariffs were approved by Cabinet in August last year. Under the new prices, motorcycles would pay 24c/km, from the initial proposed 29c/km. Light motor vehicles (class A2) will pay 40c/km, while medium vehicles (class B) will pay R1/km. Longer vehicles (class C) will pay R2/km.

However, commuter taxis and buses approved by authorities would not have to pay toll fees. In a statement on Friday, SANRAL said its newly appointed Board had met with Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele in Pretoria on Thursday where the matter was discussed.

"With regards to e-tolling in Gauteng, the board is currently seized with this very serious matter and will address the current stakeholder concerns and issues raised in the petitions submitted to the Minister.

The Board is committed to meeting all its obligations to the stakeholders, and is exploring different modalities,"

SANRAL said it would present its findings to the minister, who would in turn present a report to Cabinet. "Therefore, E-tolling in Gauteng will not commence during February 2012," said

NEED A MECHANICAL SERVICE IN CENTURION (MITSUBISHI & TOYOTA OWNERS!!!)

Many old Mitsubishi Customers from Centurion, and then of late from Midrand will remember the friendly service of Freek Blignaut, mechanic & service advisor. Well Freek and Freek Jnr have now started their own workshop for Mitsubishi's, Toyota's and any other makes of vehicles, right here in Centurion, just off Botha Avenue.

Pop in for friendly service, advise or just to say hi! The rates are good, and the service is great. *(I now have my Pajero serviced at MITSPRO! Ed.)*

MITSPRO SERVICING - Freek Blignaut - Tel: 012 644 2888 / Cell; 083 543 6406

ZIM 4X4: SELF-DRIVE WILDERNESS SAFARIS

" helping you not just to 'sightsee' and pass on, but to savour the wilderness in all its aspects and depth..."

Dick Pitman of Zim 4x4 writes: "We believe that of all the forms of travel available to visitors to Zimbabwe - ours is closest of all to the meaning of the word "safari" which originates from the Arabic *safara*, 'to travel', subsequently coming to mean 'a journey' in Swahili.

Together with our safari participants we've driven many thousands of kilometres through some of the wildest terrain in the Zambezi Valley and northern Zimbabwe; spent many days exploring areas such as Mana Pools, Chewore, the Matusadona and the Mavuradonha; photographed

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spectacular wildlife and scenery; sailed and boated on Lake Kariba; caught tigerfish and bream and cooked them for supper; and a host of other things.

And we use the term 'participants' because - apart from occasional nights in lodges - mostly we camp, and our safaris are 'participatory'. They aren't us-and-them, guides-and-client affairs; we're all in it together, from sharing camp and cooking duties, planning the day's activities and getting the braai (barbeque) fire going, to getting the books and binos out and identifying the puzzling little brown birds, obscure mongooses and anonymous little creatures that crop up on every safari.

We've had Touaregs and Hiluxes, Discos and Defenders, Pajeros and Prados – only in small groups, a maximum of 4 vehicles - plus of course our own Toyota Land Cruiser, and everywhere we go, we encourage best-practice, environmentally responsible behaviour. The bush, we must stress, is what we're all about. Self-drive wilderness safaris, with the emphasis on wilderness. We determine our schedules to the nearest day, not minute; we manage our days by nature's clock, not by our watches.

This year we've had many spectacular and varied wildlife sightings, but our tour participants have also taken great pleasure through just being in some of the finest wilderness southern Africa has to offer. In short, we try to help our safari participants not just to 'sightsee' and pass on, but to savour the wilderness experience in all its aspects and depth."

For more details on this fine operator and a stunning website / newsletter, link to <http://www.wildzambezi.com>

ARE WOMEN ACTUALLY BETTER AT PARKING?

By Ray Massey

It will leave most male drivers astounded and probably surprise a large proportion of female motorists too. A new study, conducted in the UK, makes the controversial claim that women are actually better at parking. Although they take appreciably longer than men, they are more proficient at finding a space and positioning the car centrally within it.

The survey of 2500 drivers which rated them on different aspects of parking reveals that out of a maximum total of 20, women scored an average of 13.4, while the average male scored 12.3. This was despite the fact that a mere 18 per cent of women thought they were better parkers than men. The first area analysed by Britain's biggest car-park operator, NCP, was the ability to find a space. It found that impatient men often missed spaces by driving through the car park too fast. 'The ladies' slower approach meant they were better able to notice spaces, or spot when other drivers were about to leave.'

Positioning the car correctly before entering the parking bay was the next skill to be tested. Some 39 per cent of women opted to reverse in – the method preferred by driving instructors – compared with 28 per cent of men. Slapdash males were also happier with the position of their car once in the space – and that cost them dear in the scoring. Only 29 per cent of men chose to readjust the car, against 56 per cent of women.

Fifty-three per cent of women were found to have parked centrally, compared with only 25 per cent of men. This final position was given the heaviest weighting in the scoring. On average, it

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took women 21 seconds to park, compared with 16 seconds for men. Over a lifetime, says the report, this translates into men spending nine days parking while woman take 12.

Intriguingly, the study noticed that men accompanied by a female passenger love to 'pose park' – attempting to squeeze into a small space when a bigger one is available. The parking test was designed for NCP by Neil Beeson, who featured in an ITV documentary, Last Chance Driving School.

"I was quite surprised by the results because, in my experience, men have always been the best learners and usually performed better in lessons," he said. "However, it's possible that women retain the information better. The report shows that men need to give our partners more respect when it comes to parking. The facts don't lie!" -Daily Mail

NAVIGATE TO TWITTER AND FACEBOOK EVENTS WITH TOMTOM APP

The TomTom App for iPhone and iPad will reportedly be the first to use social networks as a source for turn-by-turn navigation. It can automatically plan routes based on information from Facebook events, places and friends. Drivers can also use the App to share their destination and arrival time on Twitter, Facebook, by email and SMS text.

At the TomTom booth at the Las Vegas CES show, 10-13 January 2012, the preview of the latest version (v1.10) of the app for iPhone and iPad, integrates TomTom navigation with Facebook and Twitter allowing users to navigate to friends, places and events with more ease. Customers who already have the app will be able to download the new features free.

"According to recent studies, the vast majority of iPhone users use Facebook on their iPhone," says Daan Henderickx, TomTom South Africa country manager. "By integrating Facebook features into our App we make navigating even easier."

The new App will be available within Q1 2012.

SA TOYOTA'S TOPS (NOT ONLY IN THE DAKAR!!!)

South Africa's Toyota Hilux AT vehicles (built by Toyota SA and converted by Arctic Trucks) have set some new world records in the harsh Antarctic climate. The first record was already recorded late last year when the vehicles, as part of an expedition organised by the Kazakhstan National Geographic Society, crossed 2308km of the Antarctica High Plateau from Novolazarevskaya station (Novo) to the South Pole in 108 hours.

On the return journey this record, officially recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records, was unofficially bettered to only 3.5 days, at an average speed of 27.5km/h. Using two Hilux AT44 6x6 and two Hilux AT44 4x4 vehicles, a team from Extreme World Races earlier this week set a new world record for the fastest time to reach the Pole.

They followed a route from the ice edge near McMurdo Sound on the southern side of Antarctica, across the Ross Ice Shelf and on to the Antarctic plateau to reach their destination. Their journey started on 16 December and the Pole was reached on 18 December 2011 - only 47 hours (less than two days) later, of which only 17.5 hours was spent driving.

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A SAFE PLACE TO STAY EN-ROUTE SOUTHERN CAPE

Having a family scared of spooks, they refuse to lodge or stay over in Graaf Reinet en-route our annual sojourn to the Southern Cape via George / Knysna. So I found a little place called Adendorp, not 3km's outside of Graaf Reinet, where they offer a small caravan park with clean ablutions, and cheap accommodation in various outbuildings. Safe, behind electric fence, close enough to town and facilities. Check out www.jesa.co.za and speak to the owner, Ronel on hrdutoit@telkomsa.net

PS. Little do my family know...spooks travel! - Alan

SPECIAL OFFER AT EXCLUSIVE LODGES

Safari Vacations is offering a special discounted rate at the luxury 5 star **Nambiti Hills Private Game Lodge** of **ZAR 1795** per person per night sharing. The magnificent Big 5 Nambiti Game Reserve is situated near Ladysmith, mid way between Johannesburg and Durban making it a perfect destination for a romantic long weekend in the bush. **Safari Vacations** special discounted rate of **ZAR 1795** per person per night is based on a minimum 2 night stay and is valid only for South African residents until 31 March 2012. The rate includes 5 star accommodation, all meals and 2 game drives per day.

Safari Vacations is offering a special DBB (dinner, bed and breakfast) rate of **ZAR 1145** per person per night based on a 3 night stay at **Rocktail Beach Camp**. Situated in South Africa's iSimangaliso Wetland Park, formerly known as the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park. Rocktail Beach Camp is an incredible destination with 40 km's of pristine Indian Ocean coastline. The normal DBB rate at Rocktail Beach Camp is ZAR 1579 per person per night sharing, Safari Vacations special discounted rate of **ZAR 1145** will save you approximately 27%.

Contact ian@safarivacations.co.za for more details.

SPEAK TO THE EXPERTS WHEN VISITING NORTHERN ZIMBABWE

Some extracts from ZIM4x4's Newsletter:

FUEL & PROVISIONS

Provisions are fine, most supermarkets continue to be well-stocked, and there's some very good meat around, although prices have gone up somewhat in the past few months. However, there have been a few glitches recently with supplies of both petrol and diesel, for unknown reasons. You can usually find them, but it may take a bit of looking if you are unlucky enough to be travelling during one of these temporary shortage. Best advice is to refuel *well before you need to* - keep your tanks as full as possible, just in case, and maybe bring a couple of jerry cans as well.

BRIGHT LIGHTS

Please remember that many people go to the bush to escape things like light pollution, not to endure it in an extreme form. We've been prompted to say this because of our experiences during a recent visit to Nyamepi, Mana Pools' main public campsite, when it was occupied by a mix of predominantly regional and international visitors. Not only were many individual camps decked with enough fluorescents and other lights to make the Cape Town waterfront look like a World War II air-raid blackout: the *ad lib* use of powerful LED torches - to continue the simile - resembled batteries of searchlights trying to locate hostile bombers.

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We are the first to say that every camp needs a powerful torch, for safety reasons. But today's LED torches are so powerful that many of them boast of their ability to blind potential attackers. In other words: they are weapons, albeit non-lethal, and should be treated as such, which does *not* mean waving the thing recklessly around the campsite and blinding other campers in the process; nor does it mean handing it to the kids so that they can play with the strobe function.

We carry such a torch, for obvious reasons. But we use it in well-defined circumstances, and otherwise prefer to operate a 'low-light' camp. Much of the time we confine lighting to a subdued yellow LED array directed downwards over the cooker, a pair of insect-repellent citronella oil lamps on the table, and the occasional use of moderately-powered individual headlights for particular tasks. This way, we can not only actually see the stars, but retain much of our night vision as well. There's nothing more infuriating than having some turkey in the next campsite transfix you with his 1000-lumen LED toy for several seconds because he thinks you might be a honeybadger.

I've also seen both elephants and buffalo totally confused by being caught in a web of these lights, and having a confused elephant - or buffalo - in a crowded campsite is a bad idea. Please use these devices responsibly. For more on this topic, see our blog at <http://zim4x4.blogspot.com/2011/12/night-sights.html?sref=fb>.

BEIT BRIDGE BORDER POST - IMPROVEMENTS TO COME?

Despite repeated assurances that 'something will be done', the Beit Bridge border post continues to be a blot on the Zimbabwean tourist landscape, doing its level best to harass visitors into declaring that never again will they expose themselves to such inefficiency and corruption. Now, though, there are some grounds to hope that, at last, the walls of this stronghold of sleaze may be breached.

Clive Stockil, of the Save Valley Conservancy, is widely known throughout the region as one of Zimbabwe's leading and most influential tourism and conservation gurus. He has recently been appointed to the board of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, and has stated that one of his personal goals is to get Beit Bridge cleaned up. To help achieve this, he is asking that anyone who has a bad experience at Beit Bridge during the Christmas and New Year period should document it in letter form, and email it to him at clives@senuko.com. This will help him to provide a body of first-hand information and evidence to those government ministers whose brief includes the management and administration of the border post.

Clive is also well-known to the writer of this newsletter, both because of his conservation activities and because he runs a similar operation to ZIM4x4 within the Gonarezhou National Park and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, which neatly complements our own activities in the Zambezi Region. His achievements are legendary, and we can safely say that the time you spend in writing to him about Beit Bridge experiences will not be wasted.

Contact Dick or Sally Pitman at info@zim4x4.co.zw

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EWT GREEN DRINKS

This new event aims to encourage networking and raise awareness of the EWT and the work we are doing. We aim to make this a quarterly event and look forward to meeting you.

Date: 9 February 2012

Place: to be confirmed

For further details and bookings please Contact Joy Nel on 011 372 3600 or joyn@ewt.org.za.

EWT TALK AND DINNER – SUSTAINABLE MINING PRACTICES AND BALANCING MECHANISMS

Join us for an informative presentation by Mariette Liefferink, CEO of the Federation for a Sustainable Environment and Associate of the Research Niche for the Cultural Dynamics of Water. Mariette presents an intriguing case study on the Witwatersrand Goldfield, which has been mined for more than a century.

Date: 21 February 2012

Time: 18:30 for 19:00

Price: Members: R50 for talk and R115 for dinner, Non-members: R75 for talk and R115 for dinner

Place: Country Club, Johannesburg. Napier Road, Auckland Park

Contact Debbie Thiart on 011 372 3600 or debbiet@ewt.org.za

SUNPATH SOJOURNS

Another fantastic season draws to a close and we have a bit of time to reflect on the year, the numerous adventures and all the great guests from all parts of the world that we were able to host in 2011.

The season started in dramatic style with Kariba Dam's floodgates being opened unusually early this year. The increased inflows into the Zambezi and the fact that the Zambezi River Authority opened a fourth floodgate, releasing a very large amount of water at the end of February, made early season canoeing a 'different' experience. Some of our night stops on the islands were completely submerged and new spots had to be found.

Some of the exclusive campsites as well as the main campground and some lodge and NP staff facilities on the banks of the river at Mana were underwater.

Our early trip with the folk from UK turned into a "Camel Challenge" as we had to re-route the track into the Mucheni 4 site with a lot of pushing, pulling and digging (accompanied by lots of nervous giggles) to get the equipment through. Was great to be able to show the next generation of "Pom's" around and thanks to Sean, who has been a regular visitor over the past few decades, for bringing his son on an extended trip with us. We hope that we can inspire the younger generation on what priceless experiences can be gained in our wild places.

We also had the privilege of hosting 3 generations of the fairer sex with grandma, daughter and granddaughter with us on a Chirundu-Mana canoe trip, followed by a few nights at our Zambezi Camp. Congratulations to all the ladies and hope your un-planned swim in the Zambezi was not too harrowing! Well done to 'Granma' Alice for getting it together and bringing in the crew all the way from Dubai.

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Was great to host the Cape Town crew again who braved yet another Mana Shoreline canoeing and Chitake trip with us. Having 8 thirsty men, who drunk us out of 'house and home', was certainly a memorable trip. Thanks to Martin S for getting all the lads together.

The wild dog clans have been a regular feature at the camps and have even been spotted at our Chitake camp a few times this season. The speed and efficiency of their hunts are truly breathtaking and a sight to behold. We have been lucky to have spent a lot of time with the dogs this year and had some great communing with them after the obligatory 'butt-crawl' to sit with them.

The large pack of wild dogs, including 'Droopy' and the kids, has been sighted on most of our trips this year and it has been fantastic to witness the pack growing stronger in numbers over the past few years.

The lion gangs have been busy, both at the River and at Chitake, and we have had some incredible sightings of mating lions, hunts and general lion carnage over the year. A rather unusual sight was in late October when the "Mucheni" pride of lions had a field day killing four buffalo and two waterbuck on one night in front of our Zambezi Camp at Mucheni. They were taking full advantage of the weakened state of the grazing animals at this time of the year before the rains set in. The Chitake pride has also been up to their usual mayhem and has been finding young elephants as a suitable change of diet.

We said a sad farewell to a Mana icon with the passing of one of its greatest elephant bulls. The gentle giant known to us as "Slot" finally died at the end of last year. He was sorely missed this season, but other large and gentle bulls have taken his place in walking through the camp and visiting us on numerous occasions at the dining 'room'. These huge bulls tolerance of the humans who visit his world is a never ending source of pleasure to us feeble 2 legged-creatures, as they stroll silently and nonchalantly into camp and pass within an arms length of the tents.

On a more sombre note we are appalled at the seemingly un-controlled developments which are going ahead in Mana with the allocation of leases to two new "operators" with no track record in Mana. It is very sad when politics are put in front of the good of the Park. Stakeholders, including the Mana Pools Tour Operators Association, have voiced their concerns. The developments directly contradict the Mana Pools Management Plan prepared a few years ago in consultation with all stakeholders, which advises that future tourism developments in Mana should take place away from the Zambezi River at inland sites to try and preserve the wilderness quality for which Mana Pools is so famous.

Craig is still serving on the committee of the Lower Zambezi Tour Operators Association for 2011/12 and continues to lobby National Parks in matters affecting Mana and the Zambezi Valley.

There have been more game-drive roads opened in Mana including the 25kms section of the long disused 'Middle Jesse' road (thanks to Zim4x4). A few other roads inland from the Zambezi River have also been opened in Mana with assistance from tour operators. The aim of this exercise is in line with the endeavours to encourage tourism traffic and developments away from the ecologically-sensitive alluvial terraces of Mana into the hinterland of the Park.

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The Sunpath website has been up-dated and we hope this will give more information on our operations. It includes details about our Tented Camps in Mana Pools and Chitake Springs, Canoeing safaris covering the Zambezi River from Chirundu to Chewore, as well as Houseboat safaris on Kariba with day walking in the Matusadona National Park. We would appreciate your comments and suggestions on how to improve the site.

We will continue with our Nyakasanga Canoe Trail (Chirundu – Mana) as well as our Houseboat safaris over the rainy season and will resume our mobile tented camp operations and other long haul canoe trips in April next year.

Thank you to all our guests who supported us in 2011 from all over the world, we hope you have taken home many exciting and happy memories of your time with us.

Lastly a note of thanks to the Sunpath team – Gus and Sandy, Johnso, Leon, Simba, Bonus, Peter and Godfrey who all worked tirelessly to make your experience with us as smooth, comfortable, rewarding and memorable as possible.

With our best wishes from Craig & Sharon Chittenden, Gus & Sandy Alexander and the camp staff of:-

Sunpath Safaris P/L
PO Box WGT 416, Westgate, Harare, Zimbabwe,
Tel: (263-04) 304043 / Mobile: 0712 204 947
Email: sunpath@mweb.co.zw / Web: www.sunpathsafaris.com
In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks...

FRACKING IN NAMIBIA?

Tour Brief has been informed that prospecting licenses for minerals and coal seam gas have been issued for the Palmwag Concession and surrounding areas, and that exploratory holes are planned. This region is a particularly sensitive ecosystem, and forms the main range of the **desert-dwelling black rhino**, desert lion and **desert elephants**.

In addition to concern for preservation of the ecosystem, and conservation and security of its species, sources have expressed concern over potential use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Fracking, often associated with extraction of coal seam gas, involves pumping water, gas and other substances at high pressure into holes drilled in rock. The rocks then crack, making the extraction of gas easier.

Critics of fracking have noted that in addition to heavy use of water reserves, waste water from the process may be contaminated.

According to Rob Moffet of **Wilderness Safaris** in Windhoek, extraction of natural resources will create employment and generate foreign exchange, however he said, "This must be consistent with our much-publicized Constitution sustainability clause Article 95 (l) which stipulates that the state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies which include the: maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefits of all

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Namibian. With this particular Article, Namibia is obliged to protect its environment and to promote sustainable use of its natural resources.”

He went on to state that Wilderness is adamant that appropriate EIAs should be conducted and should cover, in comprehensive detail, the commissioning, operational and decommissioning stages.

“Along with our partners we strongly advocate that the authorities responsible weigh up the short term economic benefits of the extraction of finite resources that ultimately contribute to global warming, in the case of coal and gas specifically, and these impacts should be carefully weighed up against the long term renewable economic and other benefits of sustainable industries such as ecotourism which do not compromise the environment,” Moffet concluded.

Did You Know...

DID YOU KNOW



Mosquitoes have teeth

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Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

FACTS ABOUT TYRES

Reader submission:



As part of the DOT code on any motorcar tyre, there is a tyre manufacture date stamped on the sidewall. On the 2 pictures above, the date is 5107 and 1003 on the two examples in the above pictures. Oddly this code is sometimes only on one sidewall so you might need to get under your car and look at the inward-facing side of the tyre. Take a look at yours - there will be a three- or four-digit code. This code denotes when the tyre was manufactured, and as a rule-of-thumb, you should never use tyres more than 6 years old.

The rubber in tyres degrades over time, irrespective of whether the tyre is being used or not. When you get a tyre change, if you can, see if the tyre place will allow you to inspect the new tyres first. It's not uncommon for these shops to have stuff in stock which is more than 6 years old. The tyre might look brand new, but it will delaminate or have some other failure within weeks of being put on a vehicle.

Reading the code. The code is pretty simple.

The three-digit code was used for tyres manufactured before 2000. So for example **1 7 6** means it was manufactured in the **17**th week of **6**th year of the decade. In this case it means **1986**. For tyres manufactured in the 90's, the same code holds true but there is a little triangle after the DOT code. So for this example, a tyre manufactured in the 17th week of 1996 would have the code **176△** Tyres with a 3 digit code is too old and past their "use by" date, and therefore dangerous. If you have such tyres fitted, replace them ASAP!

After 2000, the code was switched to a 4-digit code. See pictures above and paragraph 1. Same rules apply, so for example **5 1 0 7** means the tyre was manufactured in the **51**st week of **2007** on the first tyre, and on the second tyre, **1 0 0 3** means the tyre was manufactured in the **10**th week of **2003**.

The "fresher" the better and keep those receipts of when you purchased the tyres. This is a factor that every tyre buyer should pay attention too, even more so on imported tyres. Tyres offered on specials are often older tyres, close to their 4th or 5th anniversary, so check those dates!!

AND MORE SIDEWALL INFO:

Temperature grades are an indication of a tyre's resistance to heat. Sustained high temperature

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(for example, driving long distances in hot weather), can cause a tyre to deteriorate, leading to blowouts and tread separation. From highest to grade lowest, a tyre's resistance to heat is graded as "A", "B", or "C".

Traction grades are an indication of a tyre's ability to stop on wet pavement. A higher graded tyre should allow a car to stop on wet roads in a shorter distance than a tyre with a lower grade. Traction is graded from highest traction to lowest as "AA", "A", "B", and "C".

Tread wear grades are an indication of a tyre's relative wear rate. The higher the tread wear number is, the longer it should take for the tread to wear down.

A control tyre is assigned a grade of 100. Other tyres are compared to the control tyre. For example, a tyre grade of 200 should wear twice as long as the control tyre. This may however less or lower traction.

SANRAL STRESSES ROAD USERS

Twitter was abuzz on Sunday night with e-toll chatter, as some Joburg motorists reported having been pulled over by Sanral employees at roadblocks. Drivers said they had been told they were required to register for the new billing system despite the e-toll rollout being suspended earlier this month pending talks with unions.

"Till such time as legislation exists that forces people to purchase e-tags, telling people to do so under threat of prosecution is tantamount to extortion," said Justice Project SA chairman Howard Dembovsky. "If we can establish those facts, we will charge them."

The reports cited the Linksfield onramp to the M3 and the Malibongwe onramp towards Pretoria as having been targeted around noon on Sunday. Aside from Sanral employees working outside



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their jurisdiction, Dembovsky said the South African Police Act states that “roadblocks can’t just be set up as and when you please. Police require permission from the provincial commissioner. “Let’s say the roadblock was accompanied by metro police; it would be relatively legal. But turning around and telling people they have to buy an e-tag or register is nonsense. There is no legislation for that,” he said.

@kwpretorius, told PigSpotter: “Was pulled over about a hour ago and the a*****e said I will get a fine if I don’t register.” The person did not register. Another, who goes by the name IronDog4x4, posted: “... how can they force anyone, they are not the LAW. Sounds more like criminals to me!!!” - The Star

(Anybody experience any of this themselves? Ed)

INDIA BUILD FOR NEXT LANDY DEFENDER

January 26 2012 - By Ray Massey

Jaguar Land Rover will build the next generation of its back-to-basics Defender off-roader in India, the boss of parent company Ratan Tata has revealed. It may even export Indian-built Defenders back to the UK in kit form, to be assembled there by British workers. The aim is to lower manufacturing costs and build vehicles closer to their prime markets, such as booming India.

Tata told Autocar magazine: “We are looking at producing the platform for the new Defender in India.” The idea is to use the same platform as the basis for some Tata car models. It is the next step in the ambitions of the British-based, Indian-owned luxury car company, to expand into both India and China.

Land Rover already builds some of its Freelander models in India – exported in kit form for final assembly there – after announcing last March that it was to build an initial 2000 cars a year at its plant in Pune. Executives described the move at the time as ‘dipping a toe in the water.’ But a full manufacturing facility would mark a significant step up.

The next Defender is due around 2015 and the recent DC100 concept shows what the company has come up with so far in that regard, although negative public reaction towards the rather soft-looking, high-tech concept could persuade them to change it somewhat. Daily Mail

SA HUNTERS SUBMITS SOLUTIONS FOR RHINO POACHING TO PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

The SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA) has called on government to demand the urgent down-listing of South Africa’s white rhino by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as the only effective measure to stop rhino poaching.

In its submission to the portfolio committee on Water and Environmental Affairs, SA Hunters says the down listing of white rhinos from Appendix II to Appendix III will allow South Africa’s conservation authorities to manage the trade in rhino horn effectively and responsibly. The portfolio committee will consider comments and recommendations to curb rhino poaching at a public hearing in Cape Town on Friday, 27 January 2012.

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SA Hunters further recommends that skilled and qualified experts from government and the private sector should establish one body with a clear mandate to manage anti-poaching measures, and administer the national and international trade in rhino horn, using compulsory DNA-profiling. The Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria already collects rhino and rhino horn DNA on its Rhino DNA Index System (RhODIS).

SA Hunters' submission furthermore criticises the suggestion by the International Animal Rescue Foundation to burn the stockpile of rhino horn. It says such an act will be just as criminal as the burning of the stockpile of elephant tusks in Kenya, and will reduce the value of rhinos and rhino conservation to smoke.

'We challenge the International Animal Rescue Foundation to ask the alleged 11,500 signatories of their petition against trade to donate US\$100 each to reimburse South African conservation authorities for some of the expenses incurred in the anti-rhino-poaching effort. This can generate R9,2 million for the noble cause for which they have yet to make a financial contribution,' said Dr Herman Els, manager for conservation at SA Hunters.

SA Hunters also cautioned that elephant and lion could soon be the next species to be placed under the same kind of poaching pressure as the rhino. 'We sincerely hope we will not have to fight their demise through poaching in the same reactive manner as we have all been forced to do in respect of the survival of our rhinos,' the submission states.

Since the dramatic rise in rhino poaching in 2010, SA Hunters and well-known conservationists such as Dr Ian Player and David Cook, a former Natal Parks Board senior officer, have called for the legal trade in rhino horn as the only viable solution to keep the country's rhinos alive. SA Hunters also launched an awareness campaign, Rhinos Alive! in April 2011 to promote, among other initiatives, the legal trade in rhino horn.

Editorial Enquiries: Dr. Herman Els 012 808 9300, 083 294 7503 or rhinos@sahunt.co.za

VICTORIA FALLS BUNGEE INCIDENT - FOLLOW UP

Go to Victoria Falls has received the following update from Victoria Falls Bungee, in response to the bridge incident on 31 December 2011. This follows the official statement released on 2 January 2012.

The statement reads: We remain in contact with the Australian lady involved in the incident who is recuperating in South Africa where she has received expert medical attention. We are pleased to advise that she has now been released from hospital and although she remains bruised and sore she will shortly be free to return home to Australia.

As a matter of record we wish to highlight her bravery and survival skills, which contributed significantly to her own rescue and her continued positive disposition and strength of character has been an inspiration to us all.

It goes without saying that we deeply regret the incident, which has come as a huge shock to us. Despite the experience of the crew and parameters and procedures, which have successfully guided the operation for 17 years and over 150,000 jumpers, we were unable to prevent this





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accident. We take this exceptionally seriously and our objective now is to learn from this incident and review every component part of our operation to determine where we can further minimize the risk of bungee jumping from the Victoria Falls Bridge.

To this effect the following preliminary measures have been implemented:

- We have removed all bungee cords from the system, which were made with the same batch of rubber as that used to make the failed cord. These have been retained for further testing.
- An entirely new set of bungee cords have been installed on the system. These have been extensively load tested and inspected thoroughly and we are satisfied that they are safe to jump on.
- The entire bungee system has been thoroughly inspected and checked and we are fully confident that everything is safe to jump on.
- In addition to our normal checks and procedures we have instigated additional daily and intermittent checks on the bungee cords and we are fully satisfied that these checks and procedures are more than sufficient to ensure our clients safety.
- Our own crew are conducting test jumps before the commencement of daily operations and throughout the day.
- Experts in South Africa have been contacted and we expect them to be on site next week to help us with our ongoing investigations as to the cause of the incident.
- The broken cord has been carefully stored and will shortly be sent to South Africa for forensic testing.
- A qualified river guide with first aid certification and necessary safety and recovery equipment will be positioned in the gorge below the bridge.

In light of the above Victoria Falls Bungee are entirely satisfied that everything humanly possible has been done to ensure the safety of our clients and bungee jumping operations have now recommenced without further incident.

ZIM TOURISTS TAKE NOTE:

SI 154 Safety Equipment: Friends or family driving into the country? It's advisable for visitors with foreign registered vehicles to prepare for checkpoints where they might be asked to show they're carrying Safety Equipment. If you know of anyone driving into the country, they'll thank you for forwarding these details to them:

Fire extinguisher

Mandatory. 1kg (light vehicles). To be SAZ approved. Visitors should carry SABS approved units.

Warning triangle

2 triangles mandatory. Not required to be SAZ approved.

Fluorescent safety jacket

Recommended for own safety but not mandatory (except for travellers to Mozambique).

It's also advisable to fit a pair of reflectors: white up front, red at the back. Size guide: Circular - 60mm circumference, square - minimum 50x50mm.





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Requests for more information welcome, email bigsky@zol.co.zw

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AFRICA'S BIGGEST TUSKERS

Looking for the largest tuskers in Southern Africa? According to equine and wildlife surgeon Dr. Johan Marais <http://www.johanmarais.com> - who's published two books on Africa's elephants (Great Tuskers of Africa, and In search of Africa's Great Tuskers) - you'll find them in the unique sand forests and grasslands of the Tembe National Elephant Park. <http://www.tembe.co.za/index.htm>

Situated on the KwaZulu-Natal side of the South Africa / Mozambique Transfrontier Park, Tembe is managed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife <http://www.kznwildlife.com/> and is home to more than 260 of the largest elephant in the world - and to three of the largest tuskers in Southern Africa: Isilo, Mkadebona, and Siqualo. (Isilo, the largest of them all, is thought to be between 45 and 53 years of age, to weigh between 6,500 and 7,000 kilograms, and to stand about 3.2 metres tall. His tusks are estimated to be about 2.5 metres long, and to weigh between 60 and 65 kg).

The pristine wilderness of the reserve boasts the Big Five – elephant, lion, leopard, rhino (black and white) and buffalo – as well many other mammal species (including the tiny Suni, one of the world's smallest antelope), and more than 340 species of birds.

... And you don't even need to go there to see them: just click on the webcam <http://www.tembe.co.za/webcam.htm> whenever you need a reality check.

Dr. Marais, who has travelled extensively in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa in search of free-roaming elephants, recently wrote that the species is, "The marquee of African wildlife... with their highly social complexity and intelligent minds [they] have always compelled respect."

And, he says, tuskers (bulls with tusks that exceed 100 pounds - or 45.45 kg - in weight) play a vital role in their ecology. But they've been systematically destroyed.

"During the early 1900s, great tuskers were the norm in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the south-western corner of Ethiopia, southern Sudan and the grassy plains of Tanzania and Kenya."

Elephant bulls reach their breeding prime at about 35 to 40 years of age - but, "Unfortunately this is the same time when they also emerge as hundred-pounders." Also: "Their ivory grows exponentially at this stage so that it becomes very large over only a short number of years.

"Hunting of these magnificent bulls takes place exactly at this stage, so that few of these bulls are able to pass their genes on to future generations.

"This is exactly the reason why the once numerous hundred-pounders have diminished to less than 40 bulls in the whole of Africa today."

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Dr. Marais' concern is that, "Selective destruction of great tuskers by trophy hunters in particular has resulted in the loss of some of the finest great tusk genes in Africa today. "The best genes for ivory in Africa are currently in Kenya, in Tsavo National Park. "The second best place in Africa in my opinion for ivory is Tembe Elephant Park. Nowhere else have I seen so many bulls with such good ivory.

"Even in a park like Kruger National Park, the average bull carries much smaller ivory than the average bull in Tembe.

"Tembe definitely features as one of the top reserves in Africa when it comes to conservation of elephants with large ivory. The park has been managed really well and the fact that no hunting or poaching has been permitted has allowed the elephant population to develop a fair number of great tuskers – more than Kruger currently!"

Having said that, Dr. Marais urged Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to gear its programmes, "Towards protecting these old, magnificent lords of the bush so that their genes may live on in the young bulls that wander across the African savannah."

For visitors, Tembe combines the best of both worlds: an authentic Big Five experience with the personal touch and world class service of a private luxury lodge - at very reasonable rates. Interestingly, from a responsible tourism point of view, the lodge is co-owned, managed and staffed by the Tembe tribe, under Inkosi (Chief) Tembe.

For more information, visit the Tembe National Elephant Park <http://www.tembe.co.za/index.htm> - and don't forget to check in on the webcam <http://www.tembe.co.za/webcam.htm> - you might even catch a glimpse of Isilo himself: he visits the waterhole daily.

NEWS FROM ZAMBIA'S LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

Dear All,

One more year of Liuwa Plain National Park is brought back to life. One day, one year at a time and the Park slowly heals from its past wounds. Changes can be seen and felt as the rains come, the calves are born and the successive carpets of flowers of different colors cover the landscape along the year. We hope you had the opportunity of enjoying the Park's beauty during 2011 and if not, we will be here in 2012, waiting for you.

I am also proud to report that African Parks Network chose a picture taken at Liuwa to send all its friends and partners its season greetings. Many of you have been at Munde River, close to Matamanene, and are witness to the whiteness of its sands during the dry season. This is a picture that crosses seasons and continents and it is as elusive as the cheetah on the plains.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to see you in Liuwa during 2012.

Best wishes,
Raquel Filgueiras Seybert
Park Manager - Liuwa Plain National Park
African Parks Zambia
Cell: +260 979611975

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WHATSUP AT THE CHOBE NATIONAL PARK IN BOTSWANA????

Chobe National Park Decongestion Strategy - Effective February 1, 2012

Over 75 vehicles enter the Chobe NP at Sedudu Gate every day. This includes day trippers, camp and lodge vehicles, mobile safari operators and self drive vehicles. Often in peak hours and high season, scenarios like what has happened in the Masai Mara and Ngora Crater - too many vehicles on wildlife sightings and related issues, has contributed to the DWNP designing a new convoluted system to make our safari experience more difficult.

We must now deal with a reservation system of route(s) usage. Lodges, camps, safari operators will be have the early morning and late afternoon hour time slots available for their exclusive use. Day-trippers and self drive, midday.

Seasonal period	Tour operators	Self drives and day trippers
1st April – 30th September	Morning: 0600-0900 hrs Afternoon: 1430-1830hrs	0900-1430hrs
1st October - 31st March	Morning:0530-0900hrs Afternoon: 1430-1900hrs	0900-1430hrs

If you are booked at lhaha campsite, you must enter at the Nantanga entrance, (also called route 15) which takes one straight to lhaha. If you want to game drive on the river front, you must book the day and time slot, up to 7 days in advance, based on availability of space (limited to 25 vehicles in that midday time slot each day).

It is not clear yet on how one goes about booking this reservation except at Sedudu Gate. Extra fees have been proposed for each route, 3 routes in total.

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK VISITORS CODE OF CONDUCT

The aim of this code of conduct is to enhance the quality of experience and safety offered to visitors to Chobe National Park and to ensure the sustainability of its ecotourism.

GAME DRIVES

1. Entry into the park should always be at designated entry points where payments are made.
2. A reasonable following distance of 300 to 500m should be kept between vehicles.
3. Maximum driving speed should be 40km/hr.
4. Only four vehicles are allowed per sighting and a maximum of 5 minutes should be spent by each vehicle.
5. Parking should be done with two-side wheels on the road and the other two-side wheels off the road to avoid off-road driving.
6. DRIVING OFF THE ROAD IS STRICKLY PROHIBITED.
7. Minimise disturbance to animals to avoid wilful obstruction to other park users.
8. Do not inform another of a sighting through a mobile device, radios and/or cell phones are for emergency purposes only.
9. Respect the animal's living space; do not go too close to animals.
10. The first person at the sighting should be given priority, never block another vehicle.





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11. Always stick/park to the side where the sighting is, to give way to other vehicles.
12. Slow down to avoid accidents and unnecessary dust when you approach another vehicle head on.

The complete DWNP Chobe National Park Decongestion Strategy can be downloaded from:
<http://www.maunselfdrive4x4.com/apps/documents/>

THIS CAUSED A SERIOUS BACKLASH IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY AND A FEW DAYS LATER THE FOLLOWING POST CAME OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

There was another meeting held in Kasane yesterday which was attended by ALL operators (lodges, hotels, mobile operators, transfer companies) and the Chobe Permanent Secretary. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jonathan Gibson (Managing Director of Chobe Holdings). All attendants had an opportunity to raise their issues on the new rules. Basically the new rules came as a huge shock to all, especially the implementation by 1st of Feb.

It became clear that the new rules would do more damage than good, especially to the locally owned businesses.

The result of yesterday's meeting was, that the Permanent Secretary was going to call an emergency meeting with the ministry in Gaborone next week. The plan is to postpone the starting date of the new rules until such a time as there has been proper dialogue with stakeholders and a more workable solution to the congestion on the river can be found.

We will keep you updated and hope our next post about the topic will be a positive one. The tourism industry is important for the country and Chobe plays an important role, especially the smaller, locally owned companies need to be protected.

Regards,
Robbie - Maun Self Drive 4x4

ZIMBABWE REPORT BACK CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

Zimbabwe is back, everyone knows this but we are still seeing a lack of self-drive lodge clients moving around the country. The camping **guys are** back and supporting the National Parks this one can see when you take a quick look at the park visitor's books.

The self drive & self catering/lodge market was one of Zimbabwe's main tourism types, two key factors keep this very big market away, one is the infamous Beit Bridge and the other is fear of corruption.

Beit Bridge

We spent four hours crossing from Zimbabwe into SA. The main issue is the immense amount of people using this border at certain times of the year and confusion combined with red tape. To be fair the Zim side has addressed one of the issues by incorporating most of the fees into one payment. There still remains – Toll fees, Immigration, Customs (where you pay the 3 in 1) and Interpol. I really don't know why there is Interpol at the border; they have no reason to be there other than to harass much needed tourists coming into or out of Zimbabwe.

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Our solution having spent four very hot hours at this border:

Separate the queues:

- A) Foot traffic (the most).
- B) Bus & Taxi Passengers
- C) Bonefide Tourists
- D) Trucks

And then launch a drive-through system for tourists, 5 booths each one handling all procedures.

Corruption

The other major problem keeping tourists away is fear of corruption; we sadly experienced corruption at the Kariba border, Zimbabwe side. There is a notorious pair of Interpol guys based there and the sole purpose is to extort money out of tourists and everyone crossing this border post. In a nutshell we had all the correct papers for our vehicle even a Police Clearance from our local Police station. They told us that this paper was no good and that we had to pay a \$50 "appreciation" fee for them to allow us to proceed.

Bottom line is that all SA registered cars are cleared when you leave SA, at any border! Our friends on the Zambian side of Kariba also mentioned the Interpol duo, they have become (in)famous in Zambia as well, demanding anything from cash to cool drinks from everyone crossing, it is just not right, the few are spoiling the Zimbabwe experience. Nowhere else did we experience anything other than kind and courteous officials at borders and road blocks, why must this border be allowed to continue with this blatant corruption!?

It must be noted that we had previously entered Zimbabwe on this trip through the Kasane border, nothing was asked from us in the way of police clearance or any "appreciation fees".

Anyone with any recent input on Zimbabwe border post, please email me: advertising@maplanga.co.za I will make sure your comments get to the right people in Zimbabwe.

For the full story of our trip, please go to www.maplanga.co.za Click on Newsletter

Cheers

Chris Wood

NAMIBIA – SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPAL RESTCAMP

Visitors to Swakopmund have the opportunity to choose from 200 different types of affordable self-catering accommodation in various unit types for 2 - 6 people. There is also a conference centre for max 50 people. Desert Tavern Restaurant, offering an entrance from the Restcamp property, is located close buy for convenient meals. The popular Restcamp is centrally located within easy walking distance to the beach (300m), town, shops, banks, restaurants and activity centres. The Restcamp is currently building a modern brick wall around its entire property and the Brandberg units are receiving a face lift.

Please note the Restcamp's new Tel & Fax for Reservations!

Price 2012 : from ZAR/N\$300 – ZAR/N\$1100 per Bungalow

www.swakopmund-restcamp.com / [mail: restcamp@swkmun.com.na](mailto:restcamp@swkmun.com.na)

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CONQUEST TOURS MOVE (ZIMBABAWE)

CONQUEST TOURS (PVT) LTD, 50 QUORN AVENUE, MOUNT PLEASANT

Our rent has gone up 400% so we have moved our offices to 50 Quorn Ave. Opposite Arundel Spar next door to inside out at the nursery. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

OUR NEW TEL. NUMBERS ARE: +263772239134 /+263779596503 / +263779709389

I would also just like to take a minute of your time to tell you a bit about Tiger Bay, Chura Bush Camp as well as our lodge in Nyanga Farnsfield Lodge.

TIGER BAY

Tiger Bay is situated on the Banks of the Ume River and overlooks the Matusadonha National Parks. It comprises of 12 thatched 2 or 4 bed en-suite A – framed chalets all facing the Ume River. All meals can be taken either in the dining room or outside underneath the trees. We also have a lovely bar and lounge where you will be able to have a drink as well as relax after a hard day of fishing. There is also a pool for you to cool down in should the heat get too much.

CHURA BUSH CAMP

Chura Bush Camp is only a few hundred meters away from Tiger Bay but is a self-catering campsite. It comprises of 6 twin tents under thatch all with en-suite showers. It has a comfortable dining/lounge and bar area where you'll be able to relax. There are cooks there to cater for all your cooking needs, so no need to worry about the cooking, just pick up your fishing rod and beers and head out for a bit of relaxation. The entertainment has a pool and braai area for you to cool down and unwind.

FARNSFIELD LODGE

Farnsfield Lodge situated close to Pine Tree Inn is a Lodge that exudes a place of peace and tranquility in amongst the Msasa trees. It is again a self-catering lodge with two double bedrooms and one twin bed. It also comprises of two lounges each with their own fireplace and DSTV to keep the kids entertained. There are two bathrooms and an additional toilet. The dining room and kitchen are both fully equipped and has a resident housekeeper to assist you in all your needs for that relaxing getaway.

For any further information or bookings, please do not hesitate to contact me on the numbers above.

Regards
Larah

GOING BATS!

Bats are mammals and in a group of their own called *Chiroptera*, which means hand-wing. The bat wing represents a hand with five fingers and a web in between. Around 1100 bat species occur worldwide and more than 116 different species are found in Southern Africa. Bat fossils dating back approximately 52 million years have been found, indicating that bats have been around for a very long time.

Two major groups of bats are recognised: The larger fruit-eating bats with their dog-like faces and the smaller predominantly insect-eating bats with varying facial features. Bats vary in size and

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appearance -- details of their faces, ears, nose leafs, teeth and wings can be used to distinguish different species. The world's smallest bat is only 2 g and 600 times smaller than the largest bat (1.2 kg). They are generally long lived (some up to 35 or more years), gentle, intelligent, often sociable animals.

Not all bats spend their days roosting in caves and they are highly opportunistic, taking advantage of any shelter available to them such as crevices, trees, abandoned mines, buildings and bridges. Their daylight hours are spent grooming, sleeping, and resting and they hunt during the night time.

Navigating their way via echolocation

Most bats communicate and navigate with high frequency sounds (echolocation) and are not blind. They can move around at night, avoiding predators, manoeuvring around obstacles and looking for food in total darkness. Insectivorous bats are the major predators of the night skies. They will each eat from one third to two thirds of their own body weight in insects every night. This means that a group of one thousand bats could eat four tons of insects each year. If bats were to become extinct, the insect population would increase to high numbers.

Fruit bats eat fruit, leaves, flowers and nectar. Bats prefer ripe fruit and because most commercial fruits are picked under-ripe they do not pose a significant risk, with some exceptions. Bats also eat the seeds and they are not digested but pass through the bat unharmed to be dropped away from the parent tree where they can germinate and grow, keeping our indigenous forests growing and helping to regenerate forests where they have been damaged or cleared. The baobab trees in southern Africa are also pollinated by bats.

What to do when a bat flies into your home

A bat will occasionally fly into a home and its primary goal is to escape safely back outside. They will usually leave on their own if a window or door is opened, but if not, the bat can be safely captured and released outside at nightfall. Bats are rarely aggressive but may bite in self defence if handled. Like all wild animals they may carry diseases and therefore people should avoid getting bitten by using gloves or a cloth.

If bats lose their natural habitats they seek permanent shelter in human-made structures and if they are not causing a problem or considered a nuisance there is very little reason to evict them. There is no poison registered in South Africa for the poisoning of bats and fumigation of colonies is a criminal offence. To evict bats from buildings requires patience and attention to detail since they can enter buildings through openings as small as 1.3 centimetres in diameter. Setting up bat houses may provide alternative accommodation for bats.

Conservation status

Throughout southern Africa many bat populations are dwindling due to interference by man. Bats that roost in caves are especially vulnerable to disturbance. Land and forest clearing is destroying habitats in which many other species live. The widespread use of poisons kill large numbers of insect-eating bats every year.

In the push to develop new forms of sustainable energy, wind power industry is at the forefront and wind turbines already serve as effective power sources across the globe. Recent evidence shows that certain species of bats are particularly susceptible to mortality from wind turbines.

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According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 17 of Southern Africa's bat species are near threatened, five vulnerable and one species critically endangered. For about 12% of our bat species we have insufficient data.

Join a bat interest group

If you want to learn more about these amazing creatures you can join the Gauteng and Northern Region Bat Interest Group (GNORBIG).

Dr Wanda Markotter, Senior Lecturer and Microbiologist, University of Pretoria

Bhejane 4X4 Adventures

www.bhejane.com / 044 535 9257 / info@bhejane.com

Bhejane 4X4 Adventures conducts guided self drive 4X4 trails into the remote areas of Southern Africa. Our objective is to involve everyone in the ecological, historical, cultural, and ornithological components of the areas we visit.

Depending on the destination, adventure tourism activities are integrated into the tour and include walking trails, photography, game tracking, bird watching, fishing, diving and boating excursions.

The tour dynamics allow you and your family to enjoy the trip from the privacy of your own vehicle, while ensuring your safety and comfort in the camaraderie of group participation. All vehicles are issued with hand-held radios to facilitate communication between participants and expeditions are fully catered by a professional chef. The team's language skills enable us to share our knowledge in English, Afrikaans, Zulu or Tswana.

The team

Our tour guides are highly skilled with extensive experience in tour guiding, 4x4 driving, biological interpretation and a vast knowledge of the history and culture of all the areas we visit.

Three meals a day are prepared by our experienced chef with fresh salads, potjiekos, braais and many other surprises appearing on the menu. We provide all the tents, tables, cutlery and crockery and our logistics crew will pitch and take down the camps at all the overnight stops we visit.

Though our bush-camps may be rustic, you will at all times be safe; the crew will spare no effort to make you comfortable, provide you with good wholesome food and, most importantly, see that you have a good time.

All the prices quoted include

- All hotel and lodge accommodation
- All camp fees
- Three meals a day
- All park entrance fees
- All advertised activities

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Bhejane Adventures provides tents, cutlery and crockery
Coffee & tea – all day every day whilst in camp

Children

Children under the age of ten years @ 50%

What you need to bring

- You and your family
- Your passport
- Your vehicle & fuel
- Your own mattresses and sleeping bags
- Your own fold-up chairs
- Your own drinks and in-between snacks

Private tours

Private and corporate tours, at dates of your choice and to destinations of your choice, can be arranged.

March 2011

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

READER OFFER TO OTHER READERS

Good day Alan,

We thank you for your very informative E-zine and we wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous 2012.

My wife and I would like to go to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, possibly in June/July 2012 and are looking for another couple to join us. We have tried to find companies that offer guided trips to the CKGR but to no avail. Could you please place the following in the E-zine:

LOOKING FOR A COUPLE OR COUPLES TO JOIN US ON TRIP TO CENTRAL KALAHARI GAME RESERVE - MID 2012

My wife Jenny and I (ages 56 and 63) are looking for a couple or couples to join us on a trip to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in June or July 2012. We have been on a number of 4x4 camping trips over the past 7 years to Botswana and Namibia. Please contact me if you may be interested.

Regards,
Richard Way - 011 476 5686

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ANOTHER OFFER TO GO FISHING IN ANGOLA

Goeie dag

Ons is 'n groep van Vaalwater in Limpopo wat 'n toer na Angola beplan gedurende die 2012 Junie/Julie skoolvakansie, maar ons soek nog mense om saam te gaan. Ons is nie geaffilieer by enige 4x4 club nie, maar ons gaan gebruik maak van 'n Namibiese toergids.

Weet julle van mense wie sou belangstel om saam te gaan?

Baie dankie

Danie Fourie

082 373 1022 / 014 754 4522

READER FEEDBACK

Thank you for your excellent E Zine, enjoy reading it and appreciate the volume of knowledge that is being shared which is very helpful and most applicable.

Best regards

Frikkie Buys

Thanks Alan!

Another edition of note ☺. Have a wonderful Christmas and a perfect New Year.

Regards

Jurgen Cobarg (KZN)

UNIT STANDARD DRIVER TRAINING COURSE – FEEDBACK FROM LEARNERS

I thought the training was great – I've been doing over-landing for a long time and still learnt a lot. I think Alan ran a professional course and everything went smoothly. The content was very relevant and the need to have the accreditation was explained clearly.

I will recommend it to all the other guys I know that enjoy over-landing.

Regards

A Foster

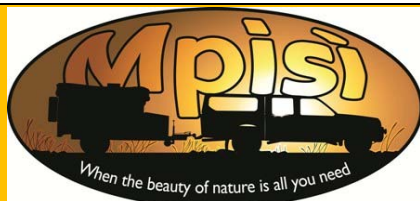


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MPISI BUSH SAFARIS

We offer 4x4 Offroad Day and Weekend Trips for the offroad enthusiast who cannot get away for long periods but would like to spend time relaxing in Mother Nature and going to destinations which can only be reached with a 4x4. Come share the experience of 4x4 trails so that enthusiasts can constantly hone their skills in a truly natural 4x4 environment and not only experience man-made 4x4 tracks. We design trips on request to accommodate birders, fauna and flora lovers as well as plan trips to any destination in Southern Africa thus enabling you to gain access into eco sensitive environments and areas with fully qualified guides.

We also offer 4x4 & Offroad Driver Training. We are Accredited Offroad Driver Instructors accredited in accordance with the Unit Standards 254135 & 254154 in association with African Off-Road Academy. Training covers the handling and use of your vehicle offroad and in eco sensitive areas in order to keep yourself and your vehicle safe with the minimum impact on the environment.

For those who can get away for longer trips, we offer offroad trips to all corners of South Africa, discovering parts of our beautiful country, off the beaten track. To travel the gravel and off the beaten track avoiding all highways and national routes, stopping at each little town on the way, explore our country's history, its people and places as well as adventure into the surrounding bush.

Trips are also made to Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and other countries within the SADEC region.

Contact us & visit our website for further information:

Duncan Kenney (GP3499)

Karen Chiole (GP3500)

082 600 7177

082 657 1252

info@mpisibushsafaris.co.za

www.mpisibushsafaris.co.za

UPCOMING TRIPS:

TBA

March 2011

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Fresh from the Bush – New Products

NEW PROTECTIVE GPS CASES

BE THE FIRST!!!

NEW "WOW" AND PRACTICAL GPS COVERS – Rugged, floats, drop resistant, made to get dirty and just the thing for your *Montana 600/650, Oregon 1, GPSTMap 62 series, GPSTMap 78 and new eTrex GPS Devices.*

Just launched in SA.... So order yours now!!!! Immediate availability while stocks last.

Material does not hinder GPS signal. Zippered case, hard textured rubber/plastic, hard density form with brushed interior. On lanyard as well. Can fit on bicycle. Your Montana will float if it is in this case and dropped in water. Still easy to operate when in casing.

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT WHILE OUTDOORS!!! Enquire re pricing for:

- 1 Garmin Montana
- 2 Garmin GPSTMAP 62
- 3 Garmin GPSTMAP 78
- 4 Oregon
- 5 eTrex (new)

Pricing excludes any shipping costs. Enquire from 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

NEW TRACKS FOR AFRICA BOOK – A MUST BUY!!!

Tracks4Africa's much awaited "Namibia & Botswana Lodging & Camping Directory" is now available for sale. The book is jam packed with places to camp and stay and include well researched information on each listing.

The book is printed in full colour on high quality paper and comprises 1 082 listings spread over more than 250 pages. The suggested retail price is around R200. Feedback from initial sales has been extremely positive, and sales numbers high.

Should you be interested, drop me a line on 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za, and let's see if I can do you a good deal. I have an electronic brochure on it too.

MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS

Masazane Expeditions specialises in trans-Africa expeditions. Our expeditions are family orientated, however very "rough" conditions for extended periods makes some of the expeditions difficult even for adults and we therefore are forced to exclude children under fifteen (15) years of age. Contact Jacqui on info@masazane.co.za for more details or questions on any of our exciting adventures. You may also visit www.masazane.co.za.

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TOURS/TRIPS IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE OF RSA

These tours/trips explore the Soutpansberg and **Komatiland Forestry** areas and are run regularly, as and when booked by a group... so please do not hesitate to contact Jacqui on info@masazane.co.za as soon as possible so that we can set out an itinerary especially for you and your family/friends. The tour may include some travelling in the Mpumalanga Province, e.g. the southern parts of the Kruger National Park.

One (1) day tours are usually run from our base, **Camp Africa**, in Louis Trichardt. All the evenings on an extended tour, e.g. a long weekend, may be spent at **Camp Africa**; or at other accommodation en route; or a combination, depending on the chosen itinerary. Places of interest that are visited (itinerary dependant) include: Bergpan Salt pans; Thathe Vondo Sacred Forest; Lake Fundudzi; Tshatsingo Potholes; Dzata Ruins; the Big Tree (Baobab); Tshirovha Waterfall; ... and so much more...

Planned dates:

TRANS AFRICA NORTHBOUND EXPEDITION 2012 (LEG I)

Our ninth Trans-Africa Expedition starts at **Camp Africa** (Louis Trichardt, RSA). The general route for this intrepid expedition is RSA; Botswana; Namibia; Angola; DRC; Congo; Gabon; Cameroon; Nigeria; Niger; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco (including the region called Western Sahara); and ends in Spain at Algeciras. Cross the biggest river in Africa; see the rain forests; stopover in Timbuktu; cross the Sahara Desert; enjoy the music and vibe of African cities; and much, much more...

Departure Date: 04 June 2012 (tbc)

Contact Jacqui on info@masazane.co.za now for more detailed information.

EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST EXPEDITION 2012 (LEG II – LINKING ROUTE)

This is a linking route between the Trans-Africa Northbound and Southbound Expeditions for those expeditionists that wish to join us on the entire once-in-a-lifetime circular route. Drive through Spain; France, Italy; Greece; Turkey; Syria; and Jordan into Egypt. Visit Monte Carlo; Pisa; Rome; Pompeii; Acropolis; Olympus; Meteora; Blue Mosque; Topkapi Palace; Basilika Cistern; Cappadocia; *Crac des Chevaliers*; the Dead Sea; Petra; Wadi Rum; and so much more...

'Departure' Date: when Leg I ends

Contact Jacqui on info@masazane.co.za now for more detailed information.

TRANS AFRICA SOUTHBOUND EXPEDITION 2012 (LEG III)

Our tenth Trans-Africa Expedition follows directly on from the linking route through Europe and the Middle East and starts from Cairo (Egypt). Let the secrets of Egypt and its pharaohs overwhelm you; experience the Sahara Desert and live to tell the tale (again); survive the heat and desolation through Egypt and Sudan while driving along the mysterious Nile River; experience the striking White Desert; feel the history embedded in the rock churches at Lalibela; experience millions of flamingos; visit the source of the White Nile; meet people from various cultures; and so much more...

Why not fly into Cairo and join Dave in our vehicle back to RSA...

'Departure' Date: when Leg II ends

Contact Jacqui on info@masazane.co.za now for more detailed information.

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Please contact us at info@masazane.co.za if you want us to tailor-design an expedition for you and your close family/friends. We design the expedition according to your needs; provide expert advice on various aspects of such expeditions; provide assistance with all required documents; can provide meals; and of course provide a superb guiding service that will make your expedition ever so memorable...

Want to leave your 4x4 vehicle at home? Or you do not have a 4x4 vehicle? Why not join us in our vehicle on one (1) of our planned expeditions or charter us for an itinerary of your choice with your family/friends. Contact us on info@masazane.co.za and ask Jacqui for more detailed information.

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT ALL DATES AND ITINERARIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

June 2012

The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy (Rent too...)

GARMIN 276C For Sale

Garmin 276C + Auto Nav kit + Extra 512meg Memorystick + extra Ram mount
Comes with fix-mount and beanbag-mount - All in perfect condition in their original boxes
R5000.00

Contact Corrie on +27 (0) 82-807-5017 (Mobile)

SOME SPARES FOR SALE:

Diff lock – ARB RD 22 (30 spline 4.19 and down) – to fit many American vehicles (Chev, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Jeep) as well as the Toyota FJ 40s. Brand new in box. R6000 onco: Chris 083 326 2551

Toyota Landcruiser spares (2006 plus) – towbar (ex-factory), front and rear standard diffs (internal), set of shocks and springs – used but excellent condition. What offers (?) or to swop for tyres, 4x4 equipment, scrap steel. Chris 083 326 2551

RIMS FOR SALE

Kindly contact me if you have somebody that may be interested to purchase the following item:

Jeep Grand Cherokee rims with tyres:

- a) 22 inch rims
- b) 285-35-22
- c) Onroad tyres with 55% tread left

R16,000-00 Negotiable

Jan Coetzee

Tel: 011-867-1752

Cell: 071 309 4635

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HOUSE ON KZN COAST FOR SALE

Due to us travelling more and more into Africa, we have decided to put our house at the coast up for sale, it is situated in the small hamlet of Pumula, South Coast (approx 95km from Durban), very quiet and secure.

The sale must be conducted through our estate agent in Natal, if you are keen I will pass on your email to them for action. Please note, this is not an urgent sale situation, we are in no hurry.

For more info and details of the appointed estate agent, please email advertising@maplanga.co.za or call me on **083 453 3774**

Regards

Chris & Natalie Wood – Maplanga Africa www.maplanga.co.za

PUMULA – SOUTH COAST: Furnished private house for sale R770,000

You get:

2 bedrooms, one bathroom, separate small outside cottage with one bedroom & bathroom en-suite plus outside shower, large lock up single garage, secure fenced property, very quiet **large** jungle property.

Main feature of house is the massive outside veranda complete with two day beds overlooking an indigenous jungle.

Pumula Beach: The stunning and quiet Pumula Beach is about 1minute away, but no sea view from property. Pumula beach is a launch site for small craft fishing boats.

Furnishing:

4 Beds (one brand new double bunk), cupboards, outside table and bench seats, unique wooden lounge suite/coffee table, TV and DSTV/Dish, brand new DEFY fridge/freezer plus old but working chest freezer.

The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedback...

FEEDBACK ON FIRST AID COURSE PRESENTED END OF 2011

Alan,

Course more detailed than the previous one. Has a number of hints for emergencies in the bush but as expected covers the same ground. Tim Gray is a great instructor..

Patrick Dillon.

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FINAL DECEMBER 2011 CAMP WEEKEND

December a month of many emotions-

The closing of schools for the summer holidays, exam results and later still Matric results with its own stresses, holidays planned, vehicles to be serviced, year-end functions, bonuses, Christmas shopping etc. etc.

The long weekend of the 16th albeit a week after the schools had closed signalled the official start of the vacation period with the closure of many businesses, the building industry and many other enterprises. The long queues at the toll plazas were a sure indication of this with some of us waiting an hour + to pass the Carousel Plaza. The weekend saw 4 families headed to a now popular club destination just outside Bela Bela.

Arrival at Koro Koro saw 3 families, Goodway, Jarvis & Swanepoel, set up camp in a secluded campsite on Thursday the 15th December 2011 and a fourth, Glanvill, arriving early on the 16th.

This was definitely a nothing-do weekend, lazing around the pool, sleeping, eating, reading.....whatever took your fancy.....

Saturday saw the the Koekemoer family join us and later we gathered for a Christmas dinner together with each family contributing to the meal and we certainly feasted.

Well rested we departed Sunday to our further planned trips and to commence our annual vacation with some families visiting the coast and family whilst others stayed at home to catch up on chores.

One lekker rustige weekend - a "goodway" to start the annual vacation - THANKS ALAN & FAMILY.

The Glanvill's

KNYSNA FOREST TRAIL – DECEMBER 2011

There is a lot of speculation around the existence of the Knysna Elephants.....

Annually, we as a family take our break from a hectic 4x4 year, and go and relax down in the Southern Cape region. Our standing camp site spot has been booked for 4 years now at the wonderful Woodbourne Caravan Resort, 800m from the famous KNYSNA HEADS. This year was no different.

But having good friends in the persons of Dennis and Frank Carlisle from Bhejane 4x4 Adventures who live in Wittedrift outside of Plett, I make it my mission to see them every year. Again, with many club members and friends in this district over the holiday period, I also try and support Behjane 4x4's spectacular Knysna Forest Tour, for which they are the concession holders. And I love to share this trip with my friends. So this year, across the span of 2 days, we led 16 vehicles through the forest on separate tours.

The point? To get to the inner sanctuary of the forest. To experience the magnificent beauty of the forest. To be lost in the wonderful folklore of the forest. The animals, the birds, the trees, the fynbos islands and most of all...the hidden secrets of the forest's culture and rich history.





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Children and adults tentatively listen to the tales told by Dennis as we meander through the forest, covering the woodcutters (from Afrikaans origin) woes, the silk work farmers plight, imported from Italy, their hardships, the lies and skullduggery of the wood merchants in town. On to the narrow gauge train line, the fairies, the fateful helicopter accident of the MacFarlane's and the myths surrounding the Knysna Elephants.

With the recent publication of Gareth Patterson's book about the Knysna Elephants, people must start believing there are elephants there. Rumour puts it at between 6 and 12, depending on who you speak to. Gareth still lives in the forest, ever entertained by his deep research on the animals. I am told he is now tracking and researching leopards in the forest.

But back to the elephants, a creature for which I have much love. Yes, they are said to be in the forest. Last year we were shown some broken branches and prints that were approximately 2 days old. But it had rained, and the excitement was not of the highest level.....

But this year, our guide took us to a place just off the end of the morning trail experience, where the dominant male elephant, who is suggested to be in must, had wreaked havoc due to a sense of humour failure.

Yes, he exited the forest area, and could have bypassed a large farm type swing gate, bolted and chained to is upright steel poles, concreted in the ground. But why? He was peeved with somebody, so he simply ripped it out the ground, concrete posts and all, bent it in more ways than one, and tossed it on the ground. To add insult to injury, he then left his droppings all over and progressed into open public space.

There he ripped the DO NOT FEED THE BABOONS sign - ok sir, we won't! and tossed it aside. A once strong tree alongside become cannon fodder and got raped in the process. The elephant then crossed the Uniondale / Knysna gravel road that passes through the forest and attacked the fence around the resident Telkom tower.

Eish! For him yes! But for us - WOW, what an experience to have hard core evidence, a day or two old, that the elephants do reside in the forest.

In December this year, we will be back - as I still believe, one day, we will meet face to face.....

See <http://www.bhejane.com/> for more details

Dear Alan

Thank you for the communique. Thank you also for accommodating us on the Knysna trip. Great to have seen signs of elephant activities in the bush still. I look forward to a great year with you and your company.

Kind regards

Pieter Heslinga

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Hi Alan and Family

Thanks once again for the recommendation for the accommodation in Knysna as it was really great. As I told you the trip through the forest was worth the whole trip there as it was spectacular and I would recommend it to anyone who has not done it before. Thanks once again.

Thanks,

Kim Van Der Merwe & Family

GROENKLOOF 4x4 KICK OFF DAY – JANUARY 2012

Well, the first event was a kick off braai, preceded by a drive around the Groenkloof 4x4 Trail. As this is one of the events where we encourage as many families to participate in, we ended up with over 34 families in attendance. 30 minute slots between 3 convoys saw the families enjoy the drive, followed by a great fellowship afternoon. A great braai was had, and then Alan Goodway announced the year's program to all (draft plan). Wow, are we going to be busy again. Well the year has started, lets enjoy the great outdoors.

Hi Alan and Charmaine,

Thanks for the super day today. It was super being with old friends and enjoying the splendid weather with you all. Here's looking forwards to a wonderful year full of the same

With kind regards,

Nigel & Denise Wilshire

Hi Alan,

Ek het baie jare laas op die Groenkloof 4x4 baan gery en was regtig beindruk met die omgewing, die diere en die 4x4 baan self. Anne-Marie & I had a good time and enjoyed the track under the excellent and competent guidance of Jvlian. He and Di really make a good team.

Die Ungerers

Alan

Just a quick word of thanks for yesterday!

We really enjoyed the outing! What a great bunch of people!

Please be so kind to forward me the Jarvis's contact details so I can thank them!

Jaco, Ilse & Annika

MPUMALANGA MEANDER – JANUARY 2012

Verloren Valleï Wetland Conservancy

As Robert Frost once said: *"Two roads diverged in a wood and I, I took the one less travelled by".*

During the dry winter months of 2010, Anne-Marié and I were travelling back to Pretoria after spending 3 nights in a very, very cold Lydenburg. As usual, we opted for the scenic, not necessarily shortest, route back home. This led us from Lydenburg via Roosenekal, and as we ascended the Steenkampsberg Pass, we stopped near the summit at the view point to marvel at the spectacular scenery that lay before us.

As we reached the summit, we came across a little dirt track which turned off towards Nederhorst. We looked at each other and without saying a word I changed direction – and what a treat that was. Snaking down the mountain, the dirt track meandered through the Verloren Valleï Wetland

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Conservancy – something we did not even knew existed. As we stopped to take a few photographs and enjoy a cup of tea, Anne-Marié said that we just had to return to the area after the rains.

So, finally, on Saturday 28 January 2012, 18 months later, we met with a few fellow club members at the Excel Haven, The Rose, just East of Pretoria. Upon arrival all were offered a fresh muffin and orange juice by Anne-Marié while yours truly sorted out the admin. After the briefing on the purpose of the trip, convoy rules, radio protocol, etc. the excited group departed right on time – 06h00!

Travelling East on the N4 up to Middelburg, we drove through the very quiet (still early) CBD and turned towards Stofberg. From here the road condition deteriorated and we had to dodge quite a number of serious pot-holes. Just past Stofberg we turned right towards Steelpoort and right again towards Roossenekal.

The natural scenery along this route is mind blowing. Slowing down to allow the non-turbo diesel “Cruiser” of Patrick to keep up, we had ample time to look around and enjoy the views. After the customary stop at the view point near the summit of the Steenkampsberg Pass, we proceeded down the track towards the mystical Nederhorst (we saw this single signpost and that was it . . .)

At the bottom, we entered the Wetland Conservancy and quite a number of stops were made to look at the abundance of wild flowers still blooming. Brian pointed out a few wild orchids still with flowers, but it soon became clear that we just have to come back, this time earlier in the rainy season, i.e. end November, to really see the flowering orchids, of which there are 52 different species in that area !

Soon, much too soon, we exited the Conservancy and stopped at the office to get more detail about guided tours. So my fellow club members, watch out for the next trip invite! The trip officially ended at the point where this dirt road met up with the Dullstroom/Lydenburg road, just 7km outside Dullstroom. A few participants then had to head straight back home (to work on annual budgets?), some had lunch first before hitting the road, while a clever few made arrangements to stay over in Dullstroom.

Sunday after breakfast AND shopping, the only two remaining cars, we and Jan & Elmarie Swanepoel drove over the mountain to Waterval Boven – but that is a story for another day.

Until next time

Johann & Anne-Marié Ungerer



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Flat Wheel – Light Relief...

IT CAN BE HARD KEEPING A STRAIGHT FACE AS A COURT REPORTER

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget..

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Your Honour, is he serious?

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death..

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

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ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them the live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral , OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral..

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not , he was by the time I finished.

And last:

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

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Legally Speaking.....

The enforcement of the surety "in business rescue"

Section 133 (2) of the New Companies Act states: "During business rescue proceedings a guarantee or surety by a company in favour of any other person may not be enforced by any person against the company, except with the leave of the court and in accordance with any terms the court considers just and equitable in the circumstances."

In a recent judgement the Defendant which stood surety for and on behalf of the company which subsequently filed for business rescue proceedings avert that during the business rescue proceedings the suretyship could not be enforced by the creditor without the court's leave. The court found that on the plain wording of the Section it deals only with sureties and guarantees by the company - it is not to be interpreted as releasing persons who stood surety for the company in business rescue.

Section 133 (1) places a general moratorium on further legal proceedings. In the recent judgement in the Western Cape, the Defendant argued that as a surety he was entitled to raise a defence that the statutory moratorium in favour of the company in business rescue that the creditor was unable to proceed against the company in business rescue, so to should it be precluded from being able to proceed against the surety.

The court however found that the argument that the statutory moratorium in favour of the company in business rescue is a defence in personam for the company and not a defence that is available for the surety which stands separate from the company. Accordingly the business rescue moratorium does not avail the surety and the creditor may accordingly proceed against it.

The surety raised the fact that a business rescue plan may in due course compromise the principal debt to a lesser amount than what he was presently being sued on as surety. The court found that even if the Defendant alleged that a reasonable possibility existed that the business rescue plan may result in a lesser claim, this would still not disclose a defence on behalf of the surety. The surety would have recourse against the company in due course.

The court acknowledged that a business rescue plan same provides that the company in business rescue may be liberated in whole or in part from its debts, a creditor may indeed lose or have reduced its claim against the company and may therefore lose its right to enforce its claim, in whole or in part. Consequently the surety would not be liable to the creditor for more than so much of the claim that survives the implementation of the business rescue plan.

No clarity was however established on the issue as to whether a creditor may force the surety to make payment of the full pre-business rescue indebtedness or the outstanding amount as agreed during post-business rescue negotiations.

Johan van Greunen – Director - Van Greunen & Associates Inc.



Van Greunen & Associates Inc.

106 Panorama Avenue, Rooihuiskraal, Centurion 0157 • PO Box 68492, Highveld, 0169

Tel: +27 (0)12 661-2065 • Fax: +27 (0)12 661-5494 • Email: info@vga.co.za • Website: www.vga.co.za

Directors: J. Van Greunen • I.R. Steenekamp

VAT No.: 4230227680 • REG No.: 2007/015007/21

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Medically Speaking...

- On average, you blink 15 000 times a day.
- Women blink twice as much as men.
- A process NASA developed while refining helmet visors for astronauts led to scratch-resistant lenses for eyeglasses and sunglasses.
- We can see up to 500 different shades of any colour, even grey. If you count them all up, you'll get to over 10 million colours!
- Women generally have better night vision than men – but are still more likely to give up night driving, while men will just use brighter lights.
- The retina contains 120 million rods for "night vision", and 8 million cones that are colour sensitive and work best under daylight conditions?

More on eyesight and other eye related issues at Spilkin Optometrists - <http://www.spilcent.co.za>

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.

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Front Runner will offer any club member, on production of their club card, a **5% discount** on the purchase of any Front Runner produced product. Call Wayne Coombe- Heath now.1 Forssman Close, Dytchley Road, Barbeque Downs, Kyalami - 011 466 0155 – www.frontrunner.co.za

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- * Any specials currently running
- * Magazines, books, maps

5) 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, Isobelle (club members) or any of the staff in the shop.

6) PB ENTERPRISES – HIGHEST QUALITY POWER SYSTEMS & INSTALLATIONS

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Contact: Pieter Barnard / Tel/Fax: 012 658 5538

Mobile: 083 749 0445 / E-mail: info@pbeproducts.co.za

7) BIG COUNTRY 4x4 – CUSTOMISED 4x4 FITMENTS AND PRODUCTION

10% discount for members on all manufactured products from our factory. Excludes labour costs. Please visit our website at www.bigcountry.co.za for more information, or even better come and discuss your requirements over a cup of tea. The factory is situated in Northriding right next door to Décor Park..... Big Country really can be your 1-stop shop for all your 4x4 equipment!

Contact Richard on contact number is 011-795-9700 or info@bigcountry4x4.com

8) TENT PURCHASES, REPAIRS AND CANVAS PRODUCTS

Tent repairs and custom made canvas accessories. Please check out our site at www.caconcepts.co.za, we have heaps of info including Camping and Hiking checklists, Camping etiquette, Tips and gear maintenance to name a view.

We will gladly offer all club members 10% on all repairs and modifications as well as 10% on all products we distribute. Regret discount can be offered on products that are on promotion.

Contact Clive van der Vyver on clive@caconcepts.co.za - Cell: 082 8225969

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1) ECHO ACCESSORIES 4x4 CENTRE!

Visit Willie, Rochelle, Neil, Jacques 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.

NO DISCOUNT OFFERED!

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

Web: www.echo4x4.co.za

2) 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

NO DISCOUNT OFFERED! - DISCOUNTED PRICES AVAILABLE FROM ISIBONELA ADVENTURES cc (see first section)

3) 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.

Editor:

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)

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