

**OFFROAD & OUTDOOR e-ZINE**  
*Published by Tsibonela Adventures cc as a Public Service*

## Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there enthusiasts,

The World Cup is now over and gone. Many are wondering what all the fuss was about. However, I believe South Africa did a great job. There is a stunning letter attached herein from a local South African and his experience across the world. Great to see! This was one of the biggest happenings of our lifetime, locally, so I hope you at least soaked some of it up and enjoyed the moment.

Well the seasons are changing, and the old garden needs some attention. Spent the day with my gardener (and the newsletter of course!), just getting things back into shape again, and applying some top dress to the lawn. Spring is a month away, and then it is prime time to head off to the festive flower season of the Northern Cape. The West Coast and the Namaqualand National Park and surrounding areas will be blooming with those magnificent daisies again. Awesome to see all those colours over the many kilometres of what is normally barren veldt. Just watch out for the tortoises when you go!

The wet season of Botswana is now over, and things are looking up again. However in Namibia, the Home Affairs department is playing havoc with tour companies and operators entering the country without valid work permits, causing havoc. The authorities warn that it is vital that all non-Namibian guides have valid work permits before departing for the Namibian border. Be warned.

Talk about GUIDES, the 4WD Guides Association was started with much gusto last year, headed by myself originally to gauge the interest and get things going. However, at the beginning of this year, the committee in Cape Town took back control of the northern chapter, as it was preparing for its annual AGM. It sort of fizzled out after that with some confusion and administrative issues.

The good news is that it is now back on track, under new leadership from the core committee and the requirement to get the northern region represented is now more important than ever. Be warned however, a committee now needs to be formed and guides must be willing to take control and form their own northern region chapter, with guns blazing. More so now that the Norms and Standards are being finalised for the Driver Competency Certificate, the Guiding Unit Standards are being finalised and the issues such as those found in Botswana and Namibia (as illustrated above), need urgent addressing.

I would request that ALL GUIDES, club, commercial, operator or else qualified, in the 4WD, Overland, Quad and 2 Wheeler all attend this meeting to help form this committee. We are all currently covered under the same banner and we now have to represent ourselves. The meeting will be held on 17 August 2010 at a still to be defined venue, but in the mean time guys and gals,



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

contact me so that I may send you the official invite. HOWEVER, to vote you must be a paid up member of the 4WDGA and be 'current' at DEAT w.r.t your guiding licence. This does however not prohibit you attending, being elected (I think) or getting involved going forward. PLEASE DIARISE THE DATE. It will be in the Gauteng area!

**We are running one of our ever popular GPS Navigation (Device, Mapping & Software) Training courses on 28 & 29 AUGUST 2010. Individual invite to go out later in month, but send me an email if you are interested.**

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE NEW DRIVER COMPETENCY CERTIFICATE TRAINING SOON AVAILABLE FROM US, TO YOU, AT DECENT PRICES!!! ENQUIRE.....**

This month we had some fun at the Honeydew Maze. People, if you have not been there – GO! Take Ma, Pa, Grandson, Cousin whoever – just go. What a jol for all! We brushed up on those much needed First Aid Skills, a course we run regularly for our members and the public at large. SAQA accredited and all, so shout if you have a need.

Yes, then the schools opened and guess what. The traffic returned. Eish man. So what did we do, we fled! We spent a glorious weekend at a new venue we discovered in the Mpumalanga district. The Krusirivier 4x4 trail is a mild one at that, but the 60+km's one can drive in the hills and dales between giraffes, rhino's, kudu, plains game and much more. Stunning mountain camp we stayed in, but the general accommodation is great too and so cost effective, it is an understatement. R300 for 4 people per night in a chalet. Has a pool, putt-putt, lapa and much more!

Our team did well at the last Bridgestone 4x4 Fundi Challenge with Llewellyn Edwards and his navigator scoring 99.8%, and only managing a 7<sup>th</sup> place. Unheard of, but the scores were tight. However, we had 4 teams in the top 20 (out of 60), so it was a great effort. This month (August), we move to Thabazimbi to see what we can achieve. Sterkte manne! (en dames...).

We had another enormous Enthusiast event at Safari Centre in Pretoria East last Tuesday, with great speakers, a great venue and Jos from Safari Centre's great supper. And there was seconds. Man, was it great. The turnout was superb, and we look forward to another great event in September, with good speakers. August we have a closed function for members, and any new potential members who they invite on a personal reference basis. This is how we like to grow.

Finally, we headed off yesterday to the Ribbokkloof 4x4 Trail 50km's outside of Middelburg. Although only a grade 1-2 type trail, it has some pleasant views, lots of ups and downs, and a stunning accommodation area, where we enjoyed a chilled lunch with our feet up. A great day, with great club friends!

Well that's it for now. Got to get this out to you all today still. God Bless and travel safe!

***Yours in 4x4ing.***

**Alan Goodway (GP 1796)**  
*Editor (voluntary!)*



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

## Table of Contents

<b>Trails &amp; Tribulations...</b>	1
<b>Table of Contents</b>	3
<b>Calendar of Interesting Events</b>	3
<b>Calendar of Training Events</b>	4
<b>Hit the Trail – NEWS, FEATURES and the REST...</b>	5
<b>Hit the Trail ... / ... continues</b>	20
<b>From the Tracks – Reader Feedback</b>	32
<b>Emergency Break!</b>	36
<b>Fresh from the Bush – New Products</b>	37
<b>The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports &amp; Feedbacks</b>	38
<b>The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy</b>	41
<b>Flat Wheel – Light Relief</b>	43
<b>Preferred Suppliers - Gauteng</b>	44
<b>Editor:</b>	46

## Calendar of Interesting Events

Herewith find events, as collected in the market place. By no means are any of these events necessarily linked to / supported by / associated with Isibonela Adventures or the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng), and they are being placed here as public service only. Errors and omissions reserved.

Date	Event	Venue
4 - 5 September 2010	Wheels at the Vaal Expo	North West University Campus
10 – 12 September 2010	Getaway Show	Coca Cola Dome



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
 WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
 Tel: 012 541 6000

## Calendar of Training Events

Herewith find training opportunities with the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, and its professional associates, offered to the public. Courses only run if sufficient numbers subscribe. Errors and omissions reserved.

Date	Event	Venue
28 – 29 August 2010	GPS & GPS Software Course	Centurion
20 November 2010	Map Orientation and Usage	Centurion
27 – 28 November 2010	GPS & GPS Software Course	Centurion

## Roads to Roam Adventure Holidays

“All Roads lead to Rome”... until one reaches Africa. **Roads to Roam** is an Adventure Travel Company that focuses on Adventure Holidays and Events in South Africa and neighbouring countries. Although many of our tours require 4x4 capabilities, we also do route planning and book accommodation venues for sedan vehicles.

Our portfolio includes:

- Accommodation in **Tofo** beach, Mozambique, **Madikwe** Game Reserve, **Drakensberg**, etc.
- Guided **self-drive safari's**: join an existing tour with qualified and professional adventure guides
- Guided self-drive safari's: **tours can be tailor-made** according to your destination, length of stay and level of comfort required (groups of 8 or more)
- Safari's in **8-seater Landcruisers**: catering, all equipment and camp team provided
- **Non-guided self-drive tours for sedan vehicles and 4x4's**: includes route planning, road conditions, reservations and information on points of interest and activities at the destination
- **Fly-in safari's**: packages for individuals or groups
- **Adventure bike** tours, **Scuba diving** tours, **Weekend breakaways**
- **Ladies only** tours by request
- Nature and adventure **training**
- Destinations include South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland as well as tours to Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Serengeti and other destinations in Africa

### Upcoming Tours and Events:

5 – 9 August 2010	Safari	Lesotho (Lodge)
28 Aug – 5 Sept 2010	Safari	Namaqualand Flowers / West Coast
24 Sept – 3 Oct 2010	Safari	Namibia
Dec 2010 / Jan 2011	Safari / Scuba	Mozambique Coast (Hot, very Hot)

For a complete list of our tours, send and email to [info@roadstoroom.co.za](mailto:info@roadstoroom.co.za) or contact Lizette



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
 WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
 Tel: 012 541 6000

---

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

### **IMPORTANT ARTICLE RE SECURITY AT POPULAR ONE-STOP NEAR MIDDELBURG!!!!**

Daar was in die afgelope tyd verskeie voorvalle by die N4 Ultra City waar goedere misterieus verdwyn uit voertuie sonder enige tekens van n inbraak. Slagoffers het vertel hoe hulle kop gekrap het oor hoe iemand goed uit n voertuig kon gabs sonder dat daar n venster of slot gebreek is.

Daar is aangeneem dat iemand een van die deurhandvatsels buite sig skelm oplig as die sleutelhouer die voertuig sluit. Goedere wat so gebuit word kan nie van versekering af teruggeeis word nie, omdat daar geen teken van n misdaad is nie. Dit is komplete asof jou kamera of selfoon soos mis voor die son verdwyn.

Twee inwoners van Middelburg het die Middelburg Observer geskakel nadat hulle van die voorvalle by Ultra City gelees het. Mnre. Willie Smit en Herman Pelser weet van n manier wat op 90% van alle karre werk. Hulle was bereid om dit by die Observer se kantore te kom demonstreer.

Toeskouers se monde het oopgehang toe mnre. Smit en Pelser bewys dat mens n kar se immobiliseerder heeltemal buite werking kan stel deur gebruik te maak van n hek se afstandbeheer. Die blote inhou van n knoppie op die afstandbeheer verhoed dat die immobiliseerders van die meeste voeruite werk.

Die bestuurder van die geteikende voertuig stap dus doodluiters weg onder die indruk da t hy sy voertuig gesluit het. Intussen staan jou voertuig wa-wyd oop, gereed om deur skelms besteel te word. Wanneer jy twee minute later terugkeer na jou voertuig druk jy die oopsluit knoppie en klim in jou voertuig, salig onbewus dat dit nooit gesluit was nie.

Bestuurders word gemaan om seker te maak dat jou voertuig sluit voordat jy wegloop.

### **D WORLD CUP FORTUNES FOR TOURISM**

Although the World Cup created great anticipation among tourism enterprises, few regions saw their expectations surpassed. Rural areas like Rustenburg, Polokwane, the Lowveld and Free State, in particular, feel that tourists visited their areas on match days, but based themselves in urban areas. Cape Town Tourism communications manager Skye Grove reckons reservations were less than expected. This view was shared by Polokwane and Lowveld businesses.

The Free State had achieved mixed success. A total of 34 030 visitors, many of whom were German and Dutch, had passed through the portals of the Golden Gate Highland National Park. Bethlehem experienced huge disappointment when a FIFA-accredited travel agency's fraud was uncovered. The losses suffered by Bethlehem lodgings amounted to about R400 000.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

Unfortunately for Bloemfontein's guest houses and hotels, most soccer tourists flew in for matches and then immediately out again.

Johannesburg business people were highly impressed by the response. Tourist attractions, in particular, drew great interest. Nawaal Patel, operations manager of the Apartheid Museum, said the museum had attracted 6 000 visitors a day during the first two weeks of the World Cup, whereas 400 to 500 people usually passed through it in 24 hours.

**MR HERMAN SINGH WRITES ON SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WORLD CUP!**

***[This is a 'must read']***

From: Singh, Herman - Standard Bank

I wrote this on my Blackberry in my personal capacity. First time that I've felt the need to share via email like this. Feel free to share on.

"The headlines in RSA read the same old dismal news. World cup too expensive. No way to recoup investment. World cup over capitalized ... and more in that vein.

I read this as I prepared for a journey across 5 continents in 5 weeks, flying in and out of Jhb, and at times being out during the world cup, much to my disappointment.

I had accepted all of these stories at face value until I started with my first flight to Uganda. There I discovered that our African brethren were so proud of us for bringing the world cup here. They were praying for our success in hosting it (if not always rooting for our own soccer team). The excitement was palatable and people were clearly seeing us as the leading members of Africa. This fabulous continent with almost a billion people is perhaps more critical to our future well-being in terms of personal perceptions than the rest of the world!

It struck me then that the PR on South Africa outside the country was hugely positive and actually, you cannot BUY a positive spin like that. In RSA we complain about the cost of this world cup, yet the world now sees us as a positive and happy place to visit and do business with! An amazing dichotomy!

Shortly after that I was in India and was amazed by the extremely great and positive reporting happening on our country. From airports and highway upgrades to the amazing stadiums that have become status symbols on our own continent. The Indians were clearly impressed with our rapid progress as a unified nation and welcomed us as fellow serious fast-growing emerging market-players.

I flew via Dubai and the airport was blazoned with images of our country and the brand "South Africa" had become sexy and exciting in my mind. A transformation of amazing importance was taking place in the collective consciousness of the travellers around me. I often sensed envy in my fellow travellers when they heard where I was from, and more importantly where I was returning to.

I was then in Brazil where South Africa was emblazoned everywhere from billboards and airports to newspapers and TV ads in the soccer crazy nation. Even the domestic airline had this amazing one-hour-video which they played on how well we and Africa had done in preparing for



this event. Always positive, and promoting our country in the most positive way that I've ever seen or heard. Socially redeeming, nationally relevant, and inspirational was my summary.

I then flew SAA to the USA, and was quite moved to hear our pilots try to talk about soccer over the intercom (and in Portuguese) to a resounding applause from the Brazilian soccer fans on the plane. By now my chest was bursting with pride for my country, my team, my nation and my continent.

The trip to the USA, a country where soccer is not the most publicized sport, was the most amazing of all. Everywhere that I went, I was asked why I was out of my country at this incredible time in history (BBC even interviewed me on this point). I lost count of the number of times that I saw the words "South Africa" from the east to the west coast of the USA. From mobile TV vans at central park, to pubs in San Francisco, and even in the sports section of USA papers that grudgingly referred to this event.

ESPN coverage was amazing as were the ads, and they all painted South Africa as a nation that was now a first world country and hosting one of the best world cups ever. Praise was heaped on the country from our fans and united-population, to the fact that our team had done well (given their ranking prior to the event).

At JFK there were people proudly wearing Bafana Bafana shirts (*a USA fashion accessory now in its own right - I think that it's now the unofficial-world-cup-shirt WORLDWIDE*). And the dreaded and much-cursed vuvuzela was now becoming an American icon as I noted from fans at the airport returning to the USA. I lost count of the numbers of those instruments that I saw there. What really knocked me flat was when I found a group blowing them in union square in San Francisco. The top-of-the-pile belongs to the story of a baseball team handing out 15000 of these items to their fans before a game, to totally scare the living daylights out of their opponents! The world of sports-noise will never be the same again!

I returned, humbled, by what we have accomplished as a nation. Now I'm a senior executive, who is hard-nosed, and has been for 30 years or so, but I was very moved by all of this. So much so, that I thought that I would share this with as many South Africans as possible.

South Africans: ***Be proud, stand tall, hold your head high.*** You have every reason to be very proud of yourself and we have honoured the great Madiba in the best way possible. There are a lot of issues in our country but when I see this, I dare to dream. I see a Nation that has high ambitions and hope, and punches WAY outside of its weight-limit. A nation unified to show the world what it can do. **A Nation!!!** WOW! That alone is enough! So smile, my beloved country! You have done well!"

#### **WE SUPPLY CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN BOTSWANA**

Dear All

We are Aquarite Botswana (Pty) Ltd. Our business is Purifying water using a Reverse Osmosis Ozonated system for the best quality bacteria free water. Please notify your members that there is a facility to refill their tanks and containers at good prices at our premises.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

We are at 252 Mophani Drive, Maun Next to Johan Calitz Safaris. Contact numbers 002676860283, 0026772989574 and 75253461

Kind Regards  
Willie and Lorraine Prinsloo - [willie.aquarite@ngami.net](mailto:willie.aquarite@ngami.net)

### **HIGHVELD HONARARY RANGES MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Highveld Honorary Rangers recently donated four bat houses to the Berg-en-Dal rest camp in Kruger. At the time, the bat houses already in use were in a poor state – occupied by bees and squirrels. Almost as soon as the bat houses were put up they began filling.

These homes provide shelter for bats. The bats are known to leave a mess in rooms at the camp but with the bat houses in place the bats tend to prefer the shelters and voluntarily decide to occupy them.

When you visit Berg-en-Dal, look for the yellow house bat and free tailed bat that live in the area. The next move for the Highveld Honorary Rangers will be to look at other camps where bat houses are needed.

***(Well done guys. Ed!)***

### **R.I.P – JAN JOUBERT. THE COURT CASE LINGERS**

***Bid for acquittal in Omaheke murder trial By: WERNER MENGES 14 July, 2010***

THE second man on trial over the murder and robbery of 4x4 trail mapmaker Jan Joubert in a remote part of the Omaheke Region four years ago wants to be found not guilty straight after the close of the prosecution's case against him.

Muuamuhona Karirao's defence lawyer, Profysen Muluti, argued before Judge Naomi Shivute in the High Court in Windhoek on Tuesday that Karirao should be discharged on both counts he is facing after the close of the State's case in his trial. State advocate Jack Eixab opposed the discharge bid.

Judge Shivute is scheduled to give her ruling on Karirao's application on July 28. If she dismisses the application, Karirao would have to choose whether to testify in his own defence or to remain silent before final arguments on the verdict to be delivered in his trial are heard. If Judge Shivute rules in favour of Karirao, it would be the end of the trial and he would go free after more than four years in custody.

Karirao (25) has pleaded not guilty to counts of murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, defeating or obstructing the course of justice, and illegal possession of a firearm and licence. The man initially charged with him, Steve Kaserera (28), was sentenced to an effective 46 years' imprisonment two weeks ago, after he pleaded guilty to all of the charges.

The two men were charged with robbing and murdering Joubert (59) in the Talismanis area north-east of Gobabis on **June 21 2006**. Joubert died after being shot in the chest with a .308 rifle. He was visiting Namibia to map a four-wheel drive trail along the route that the Dorstrand Trekkers took through the country on their journey to Angola during the 1870s.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

During Karirao's trial, Muluti has told State witnesses that Karirao claims to have been under threat from Kaseraera when he was present during the murder and afterwards, when he helped Kaseraera move Joubert's body and hide items stolen from Joubert. Karirao also drove alone with Joubert's bakkie to Gobabis, where it was abandoned, before he returned to the Talismanis area some 135 kilometres away to rejoin Kaseraera.

The evidence before the court includes three statements that Karirao made to the Police and the record of his and Kaseraera's initial plea in the Gobabis Magistrate's Court. In that plea, Kaseraera admitted guilt to the murder and robbery. Karirao admitted having been present at the scene of the crimes, but claimed he was under threat from Kaseraera, who had threatened to kill him.

In a first statement made to the Police, Karirao claimed he saw Joubert being killed by Kaseraera with an assegai. In a second statement, made the next day, he retracted the first and claimed that Kaseraera had shot Joubert with a .308 rifle. In the third statement, made later that day, Karirao told a Police officer that he – and not Kaseraera – had shot Joubert with the rifle. He added that he did this after Kaseraera had threatened him and instructed him to do so.

In the indictment against Karirao and Kaseraera, the prosecution is alleging that they had acted with a common purpose when Joubert was murdered and robbed. The only element of common purpose that was proven against Karirao was his presence at the murder scene, Muluti argued. The fact that Karirao associated with Kaseraera after the murder is not proof that they had a common purpose, he argued.

He added that the prosecution did not manage to prove that Karirao knew what Kaseraera planned to do before the murder and that he reconciled himself thereto. Eixab argued that Karirao was actually an active participant in the crimes. Asking why Kaseraera would have allowed Karirao to drive 135 km alone to Gobabis with Joubert's car if he had to threaten Karirao to secure his compliance, Eixab remarked: "It just doesn't make sense."

The only reasonable inference that can be drawn from the evidence is that Karirao was an active and willing participant with Kaseraera, he said.

#### **A FELLOW NAMIBIAN APOLOGISES**

Gentlemen,

On behalf of my fellow Namibians, I wish to apologise to the South African Nation for this senseless killing of a GREAT MAN..! Believe me, it is not a pleasure to see such things happening in a great country as Namibia. Needless to say, we as a Nation oppose this Bid and I do not believe that Judge Shivute, whom is a great person, will allow this person to be set free.

I have not met Jan personally, and do not know his family, but please do tell them that we are as sad as they are over the loss of this great man.

Thanks,  
Stephen van Rhyn



**WAR ON RHINO POACHING STILL ON**

The South African National Parks (SANParks) said in a statement today (Thursday, 1 July 2010) that rhino poaching throughout the country continues to escalate at an unprecedented rate since the beginning of the year.

To date South Africa has lost a further 32 rhinos, bringing the overall number of lost rhinos this year to 124. The SA National Parks have lost 55 rhinos, while the provinces have lost 38 rhinos collectively and the private sector has also collectively lost 31 rhinos. Of the rhinos lost, 5 were black rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis* / *Diceros bicornis minor*) and 119 white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*).

The rhinos lost through poaching throughout the country constitute approximately 0,6% of the estimated white rhino population of 19,409 and approximately 0,3% of the 1,752 estimated black rhino population.

The Chief Executive of SANParks, Dr David Mabunda, said that the country is distressed by this continued escalation in rhino poaching but what is equally worrying is the escalating uninformed wild claims of the imminent extinction of the rhino populations. Whereas the poaching is unfortunately at unprecedented and unacceptable levels it is still below 1% of the existing populations and well below the annual growth rates of both white and black rhino which currently are set at between 6% - 11,5% and 3% - 6,5% respectively.

The joint operations involving the SA Police Service, SANParks and environmental crime prevention teams from provincial conservation authorities have so far made 42 arrests (22 of them in the [Kruger National Park](#)) this year. On Tuesday, 29 June 2010, a 29-year-old Vietnamese national, Xuan Hoang, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment by a Kempton Park Magistrate's court for possession of seven rhino horns after he was apprehended trying to smuggle his cargo through OR Tambo International.

Dr Mabunda repeated the call for all citizens to be vigilant and report to the police any suspicious activity especially for low-flying Robinson R44 helicopters with concealed registration numbers which are widely used by criminals in rhino poaching.

***Issued by:***

SANParks Corporate Communications

**GOOD NEWS!!!! RHINO POACHERS ARRESTED IN KNP**

The South African National Parks (SANParks) Environmental Crime Investigation (ECI) team and rangers arrested four suspected poachers in the Kruger National Park (KNP) on Saturday, 10 July 2010. The suspected poachers were found in possession of two freshly chopped rhino horns, an AK 47 assault and a Mosin Nagant bolt action rifles (both with ammunition) and an axe. In the course of the operation, rangers found a newly killed rhino carcass with horns already chopped off. The four suspected poachers, who are all of Mozambican origin, were found immediately after near the Manyeleti Dam and arrested on the spot.



**RUCKOMECHI CAMP: A GARDEN OF EDEN IN THE WILDERNESS**

Kevin van Breda, Head Guide for Wilderness Safaris at Ruckomechi Camp reports:

"Occupying possibly the most scenic and unspoilt Western river front block of Mana Pools National Park, a treasured world heritage site, Ruckomechi concession covers approximately 35 sq.kms. It is mostly flood-plain type vegetation, dense Mopane woodland and river fringes, dissected by age-old animal paths and river courses and decorated with stunning open palm tree dotted areas - truly a 'Garden of Eden'.

The massive bonus is that Ruckomechi is situated on the Zambezi River, facing the Zambian Escarpment, a breath taking mountainous back drop over which the winter sun sets in continual awesome splendour. Game walks, canoeing, game drives, 'river and pan' pontoon cruises, fishing and viewing platforms are the main activities on offer at Ruckomechi camp. With a team of young enthusiastic staff, Ruckomechi has a friendly vibrance which hopefully, leaves guests feeling rejuvenated, 'part of the family' and often planning almost immediately to return.

Good catchment area rainfall this year has transformed the lower Zambezi temporarily into a water wilderness. Gullies and small river courses have backed up inland creating stunning bodies of water. Birdlife has increased dramatically bringing waterfowl and waders right up to the back of the camp. Animals walk more regularly through the camp as it is situated on the elevated ground, turning it into the main game corridor in its immediate area. The camp is now officially an island, although the water surrounding it on the eastern side is merely centimetres deep. The island in front of our star-gazing deck is now completely under water, only leaving the top half of the lonely Acacia Tortillas to remind us that the island used to be there!

Numbers of animals increasing daily on the concession signifies that although still present, inland water is now heading towards depletion. Small 'faithful' groups of animals have continued to visit the camp and its surroundings even through the rains. Among these, elephants, lion, hippos, waterbuck, impala, baboons including the usual host of smaller animals and birds. June specials so far include pangolin (three different sightings), wild dog (numbers 22), leopard, cheetah (two different animals), eland (herd of 35) and lion (two new males)."

**RELIABLE CARS – LAND ROVER IS NOT!!!!**

**By Martin Hickman**

If you want a reliable used car, buy a Japanese one, according to new research by What Car? magazine. Japanese manufacturers took seven of the top 10 places in a reliability survey while the 10 least reliable cars were all European.

Honda, which is Japanese, topped the poll by What Car? and insurance expert Warranty Direct, which looked at the performance of 50 000 vehicles aged three to 10 years old. Only seven percent of Honda cars required repairs in a 12-month period, Subaru, Mitsubishi and Lexus, all Japanese, were the next best, with Toyota fifth despite having to recall millions of cars in the past year.



**Land Rover proved to be the least reliable manufacturer**

Other brands in the top 10 were Mazda (Japanese), Nissan (Japanese) and Kia (South Korean). Only German-owned Skoda and Mini, which is made in Britain, broke the Asian trend, ranked eighth and 10th respectively.

Land Rover proved to be the least reliable manufacturer of the 32 in the study with 53 percent going wrong, while Alfa Romeo and Renault were also among the most likely to break down. Among the other "least reliable" marques were Saab, MG, Vauxhall, Peugeot, Audi, Rover and BMW - all European.

Although sports cars such as Porsche and Mazda were in the middle of the reliability stakes, they cost more to put right when they did go wrong: on average £717 (R8400) for a Porsche and £481 (R5600) for a Mazda.

What Car? added that a consolation for Renault owners was that although they "may break down a lot, you will only have to fork out an average £226.54 (R2650) each time, the lowest in the report." Many of the models analysed have since been replaced.

Warranty Direct managing director, Duncan McClure Fisher, said: "Automakers are constantly making great strides in building more reliable vehicles so this survey is not a reflection on new cars coming out now - we won't see hard data on those vehicles for three or four years."

What Car? pointed out that, while undeniably more dependable, Japanese cars were not without their problems: Hondas suffered the highest percentage of air conditioning faults, afflicting one in 10 vehicles, as well as the highest proportion of transmission woes at 15 percent. Subarus suffered the highest failure rate for axle and suspension issues, 50 per cent and generated more brake problems than any other make, with 16 percent of cars reporting a problem.

**These were the 10 most reliable car manufacturers**

- 1 Honda
- 2 Subaru
- 3 Mitsubishi
- 4 Lexus
- 5 Toyota
- 6 Mazda
- 7 Nissan
- 8 Skoda
- 9 Kia
- 10 Mini

**These were the least reliable, reading from the bottom up, with Land Rover the least reliable**

- 32 Land Rover
- 31 Alfa Rome
- 30 Renault
- 29 Saab
- 28 MG
- 27 Vauxhall



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

Supported by:



**JULY 2010**

26 Peugeot  
25 Audi  
24 Rover  
23 BMW

**TOUR OPERATORS TO NAMIBIA – BEWARE!!!!**

***Hold-up of operators at borders costly - By: ADAM HARTMAN***

T

HE second spate of foreign tour hold-ups at Namibian borders because of a delay in the issuing of temporary work-visas has forced the tourism and business sector at Swakopmund to take the matter up with top-level Government officials.

Representatives of the tourism industry, the Swakopmund branch of the Namibian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and legal advisers met last week in Swakopmund to discuss the matter, which has a negative impact on the local economy. A list of grievances and advice on how to deal with the issue will be compiled into a letter that will be sent to the Namibian President, the Ombudsman and the Ministers of Home Affairs, Environment and Tourism and Trade and Industry.

Although the Ministry of Home Affairs was identified as the culprit, particularly inefficiencies in the issuing of permits and visas, it was felt that other ministries also be engaged in solving the problem. During the past two weeks about eight overlander trucks and busses wanting to enter Namibia from South Africa were stopped at Namibia's borders due to temporary visas that had not yet been issued. This is the second time this year that this problem has occurred. At the end of January over 40 overlander trucks and busses were stopped at the borders, with some even having been turned back.

Swakopmund, being one of Namibia's top tourism attractions, is suffering "big time" according to those who participated in last week's meeting. Accommodation establishments, adventure centres, tourism and retail shops and general services are losing out because of the hold-ups. Most of the tourists coming to Namibia with overlanders have already paid for accommodation and other items on their itineraries. Due to the hold-ups, arrangements have to be amended – if not cancelled altogether.

According to one source, South African tourist operators are telling their Namibian counterparts that this is unacceptable and "not worth their while" coming to Namibia if something is not done about the problem.

"Namibia is losing ground as a reliable tourist destination because of this," a tourist operator, who did not want to be identified said. "And this because of the snail-pace at which visas are being issued. The problem can be solved very easy if Home Affairs just start managing their affairs properly. All these tour operators want is their three month temporary work visas. They are professionals and are responsible for a lot of people who want to spend a lot of money in our country."

A source at the Tour and Safari Association of Namibia said it understood that the ministry was "under immense pressure" as a result of visa backlog, which appears to be the cause of the delay in visas being issued and distributed.



Countless visas had already been approved and paid for but were not yet issued by the ministry in Windhoek. It is for this reason that those operators coming to the borders and expecting to have their visas are not allowed in because the border control officers have not yet received.

TASA has noted that the following details should be attended to in completing work permit and visa applications:

- Application forms must be complete and legible
- All dates should be present
- The application must be signed by the applicant
- Applications must be made within the relevant submission periods: for work visas, a minimum of 14 days prior to entry to Namibia / for work permits, a minimum of 3 months prior to entry to Namibia (including renewals)
- Motivation letters
- Legible passport copies (the Ministry has indicated that they prefer passport copies scanned in colour)

Ignoring these details will result in delays to applications

#### **DO YOU KNOW THE SOUTHERN CROSS?**

The constellation Crux lies under the hind legs of the much larger constellation Centaurus, and its four bright stars, Acrux, Mimosa, Gacrux, and delta Crucis, mark a kite-like shape about 6 degrees long. Some observers are disappointed at first seeing Crux, because it's so small. But there are enough fine sights here to last for many nights of patient contemplation. To paraphrase Rainer Maria Rilke, if you are bored by the constellation Crux, you are not yet poet enough to call forth its riches. Let's take a look...

The brightest star, Acrux, at the base of the cross, gets its name from a combination of "Alpha" and "Crux". A close look with a small telescope reveals Acrux as a pleasing double star. The brighter of the two stars, which itself has another stellar companion too close to resolve, has a temperature of 30,000K and shines some 25,000x brighter than our sun. The fainter star outshines our sun by 16,000x. Like most hot, massive stars, each component of Acrux are burning furiously through their store of fuel. They will likely end their lives in supernova explosions in several million years, and since they are just 320 light years from Earth, will grow bright enough for a few weeks to cast shadows at midnight.

Mimosa, or beta Crucis, is also a hot blue star. It lies 280 light years away. The star takes its name from the Mimosa flower found in Central and South America. Mimosa, Acrux, and delta Crucis likely share a common origin 10 million years ago with many other stars in Scorpius and Centaurus.

The red-orange Gacrux (gamma Crucis) makes a striking color contrast with the other bright blue-white stars of the constellation. The star has burned through most of its nuclear fuel and has swollen and cooled to just 3,500K. Gacrux lies fairly to Earth— just 88 light years— so it's intrinsically much fainter than the Acrux and Mimosa. It will expire gently, casting off its outer layers as a planetary nebula and leave behind a dim white dwarf.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with the company name in large blue letters. Below the name, there are images of various plastic products including a white cooler, a red cooler, a blue cooler, and a green cooler. A person is shown using a tool to work on a piece of plastic. The text 'Anything's Possible' is written in a cursive font, and 'WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS' is in a smaller, bold font. The website URL and phone number are also included.

One of the brightest stars in Crux isn't a star at all, but splendid cluster of young stars aptly named the "Jewel Box", or the kappa Crucis clusters. This star cluster, one of the treasures of the southern sky, is a lovely sight in binoculars and unforgettable in a small telescope.

**MOZAMBIQUE PERMITS RISE BY 1000%!!!!**

Maputo - Mozambique has increased the cost for tourist, temporary and permanent residence permits by over 1 000%, independent media reported on Wednesday. From last Monday, temporary residence permits now cost R5 300 and permanent permits R6 700 against R500 for both previously, reported O Pais newspaper.

The price adjustments follow the introduction of passports with biometric security measures in Mozambique last year, immigrations directorate spokesperson Mariamo Joao Arlindo told the newspaper.

These state-of-the-art documents include fingerprint and eye scanners for all applicants. Existing permit holders would not be charged retroactively, she said. Visitors to the country were also surprised when tourist visa prices at borders increased from \$25 (R190) to \$82 (R615) on July 6.

These visas were only valid for 30 days. As part of a Southern African Development Community agreement, South Africans did not need visas to enter Mozambique. The government did not publicise the price changes before they took place.

A spokesperson for the Mozambican interior ministry could not immediately be reached for comment.

**THE EDUARD BOHLEN SHIP WRECK - NAMIBIA**

About 400 meters from Atlantic shoreline, surrounded by the sand of the Namib Desert, lies the hulk of the Eduard Bohlen, probably Namibia's most photographed shipwreck. Although it does not lie on the Skeleton Coast, it definitely contributes to the sense of adventure and danger for which the wild, coastline has become famous.

Although photos of the wreck tell the stories of adventurous safaris and treks around Namibia, the wreck itself has a story to tell.

A scan of ships registers shows that two ships named Eduard Bohlen were built. The first Eduard Bohlen was built in 1889 for the Woerman Line, but ownership was immediately transferred to the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Line and the ship was renamed Reichstag. The second Eduard Bohlen was a combination of passenger liner and cargo carrier. She was built by Blohm and Voss, in Hamburg, also for the Woerman Line. She was launched on 23 October 1890, and delivered on 28 January 1891.

This Eduard Bohlen is the wreck that now sails on the desert sands. From 1891 the Eduard Bohlen began to ply the route between Germany and West Africa, the first German steam ship to transport mail along the route. She would continue to do so until 1895.

On 20 February 1895, Adolph Woerman, the African Steam Ship Company. and the shipowner and shipping agent John Picard Best, founded the Cie. Belge Maritime du Congo to exploit



opportunities on the lucrative trade route between Europe and Africa. The Eduard Bohlen was transferred to the new company. On 6 March 1895 she sailed under Belgian flag for the first time, from Antwerp to the Congo.

In 1898 she was transferred back to the Woerman Line and again sailed under German flag. It was under this flag that the first of her Namibian stories can be told.

In 1904 at the beginning of the Herero Uprising, the German Schutztruppe took a decision to transfer Hereros living in Swakopmund, and those prisoners captured during the first days of the uprising onto the Eduard Bohlen, which was anchored off Swakopmund. Unsure of what to do with 282 male prisoners, the German authorities decided to offer the male prisoners to South African labour contractor A. Hewitt as workers for the mines.

Hewitt was prepared to accept the prisoners, but refused to pay the 20 Mark customs duty per labourer. He reasoned that as the labourers men were already at sea and technically outside the customs area, the duty should be waived. Once the colonial administration agreed, the Eduard Bohlen set sail on 20 January 1904 for Cape Town, technically becoming a slave ship.

On 5 September 1909, the Eduard Bohlen once again made the history books. The ship was due to offload equipment for the diamond diggers near Conception Bay on her voyage from Swakopmund to Table Bay. However due to heavy fog she ran aground on a sandbank about 100 meters from the beach. After some of the cargo and equipment aboard the Eduard Bohlen was unloaded, the marine vessel Otavi attempted to tow the Eduard Bohlen from the sandbank. The sandbank had different ideas about its prize, and so, when the attempt failed, the 30 passengers disembarked and were transported to Swakopmund.

Over the next ten days, according to reports, so much sand settled around the Eduard Bohlen that it was possible to walk from the beach to the stranded ship at low tide. As the sand of the Namib crept into the sea the Eduard Bohlen slowly became landlocked, but this was not yet the end of the story. Diamond miners in the vicinity decided that she was ideally located and perfect for a hotel. In fact, the manager of the mine was allocated the captain's quarters.

When mining operations ceased the Eduard Bohlen was finally abandoned to the sands. Today the Eduard Bohlen lies several hundred meters inland. This is seen by many as proof of the expansion of the Namib into the sea, and a warning to all ships that the coastline of Namibia is always changing.

There is a final legend of the Eduard Bohlen, that the skeletons of crew members who drowned, lie beneath the sands that surround her. Fortunately for the crew, but unfortunately for the travellers who come to see her, this is not true: nobody drowned when she was stranded.

Perhaps the ghosts that people sense are nothing more than warm gusts of desert winds and memories of times and adventures long gone  
From Tourbrief.com



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features various plastic products including a white cooler, a red cooler, a blue cooler, a green cooler, and a white cooler with a handle. A person is shown using a green cooler. The background is yellow.

**COME AND SEE THE MONKEYS - BUSHBABIES MONKEY SANCTUARY**

All tours are structured and guided. Walk through natural indigenous forests on elevated wooden walkways and experience a variety of exotic monkeys in an exquisite natural environment. The experience is described as a non-interactive game-viewing opportunity to see once-captive primates in a wild environment. Tours are highly informative and the walk is leisurely, winding its way through a tranquil forest setting.

...free-living monkeys in a natural and wild environment

Bookings are not essential unless accompanied by a group of 15+.

RATES (31 Oct. 2009 - 31 Oct. 2010)

Adults: R195

Pensioners: R175

Children 3-14: R95

Infants 0-3: No charge

Tour length: 1 to 1.5 hours

Tours are on the hour, every hour. First tour 09h00, last tour 16h00.

**Tel: +27 (0) 12 258 9908 / [info@monkeysanctuary.co.za](mailto:info@monkeysanctuary.co.za)**

**Please visit our website for additional information, such as what to bring and directions.**

**[www.monkeysanctuary.co.za](http://www.monkeysanctuary.co.za)**

**VISIT NORVALSPONT**

It's me again, Louis Eksteen, the owner of the Glasgow Pont Hotel in Norvalspont ( [www.ponthotel.co.za](http://www.ponthotel.co.za) )

Since our last contact, a number of tourguides contacted me to find out more about the special offer, and to inform me if they could help in any way. As you know, I have recently acquired the Historical Glasgow Pont Hotel, conveniently situated halfway between Gauteng and the Cape Provinces, about 40km from Colesberg.

As we believe that the tourism market may be a bit dead after the World Cup, we are busy trying to ensure that we have enough bookings to keep us going for the period before the December holidays. We are also assuming that this period may be a bit slow for yourself.

As such, we are entering into agreements with various tourguides and tour operators across the country, to form a mutually beneficial relationship and to improve everyone's bottom line. In short, we are offering double your normal commission rates for the period from the 1st of August 2010 until the 30th of November 2010, should you book a group or a client with us.

We are not a big establishment, with 10 rooms and 33 beds available. We are not a "normal" establishment, as we offer old-style Karoo hospitality and a nostalgic trip back in time. We always have good food and drink available and offer guests economical accommodation. We also have a lot to offer the guest interested in the Anglo-Boer War and even before, as well as the building of the Gariep Dam.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The tranquility of the Karoo is also not easily beaten. The 'Pont can be a convenient overnight stop, or it can be a destination in itself, with various outdoor sports, game farms & parks available in the close vicinity. Please visit ([www.pontheotel.co.za](http://www.pontheotel.co.za)) and have a look for yourself.

For any further queries, please do not hesitate to call me, or to contact Johan Steyn at the Hotel directly.

Kind Regards

Louis Eksteen

[louis@myspaza.co.za](mailto:louis@myspaza.co.za) / 083 274 3471

### **BLACK RHINOS TO ZAMBIA**

On Wednesday 26 May 2010, **five endangered black rhinos** were translocated to North Luangwa National Park (NLNP) in Zambia from South Africa. This will complete a founder population of 25 black rhinos and is the first successful return of black rhinos to a country from where they were previously poached to extinction.

This groundbreaking event, facilitated by South African National Parks (SANParks) and Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is the culmination of years of complex planning and movement between SANParks, Namibian Parks, Zambia Wildlife Authority, Eastern Cape Parks Board and Ezemvelo KZN, Wildlife in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa.

These rhino were initially destined to come from the Eastern Cape Parks Board. However, due to fears that these animals would not adapt well to Zambian conditions, negotiations were entered into with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to source the animals from Zululand in exchange for the animals from the Eastern Cape. This initiative was aimed at ensuring that the animals have the best chance of successfully adapting to the conditions in North Luangwa.

The five animals destined for Zambia were from the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and Ithala Game Reserve in South Africa. They left Durban International Airport on a specially-chartered SAFAIR Hercules C-130 flight to the NLNP in Zambia's Northern Province.

Zambia was once home to the continent's third largest black rhino population numbering almost 12,000. Heavy poaching during the 1970-80s decimated the species and they were declared nationally extinct in 1998.

Since then, Frankfurt Zoological Society through their North Luangwa Conservation Programme and the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) have worked closely together to improve law enforcement and conservation management in North Luangwa National Park (NLNP). The greatest success of this partnership has been the black rhino reintroduction programme, begun in 2003.

Five separate translocations have taken place and, with this year's arrivals, a total of 25 animals will have been moved to the NLNP. The reintroduction has been approved by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the South African and Zambian Ministries of Livestock and Veterinary Services, and Environmental Affairs.

The Four females and one male were captured in KZN, South Africa, towards the end of March and have been held in quarantine \*bomas\* (or pens). This gets the animals used to the sounds



and scents of human activity in unfamiliar surroundings and facilitates a less stressful relocation. On arrival in Zambia, the rhinos were offloaded into holding pens for a period of 2-4 weeks to acclimatise them and to enable them to be monitored before being released into the NLNP.  
KZN Wildlife

### **BUFFALO CRISIS ON THE ZAMBEZI RIVER**

First Starvation Island... now the Zambezi River. Emergency rescue efforts are now underway by conservationists to save hundreds of grazing animals including herds of buffalo, waterbuck and impala stranded and starving on islands in the middle of the fast-flowing and flooded Zambezi River downstream of Kariba Dam offshore of Mana Pools.

With three of the dam's floodgates still open and the river its highest in decades, animals trapped on islands dare not brave the strong currents to swim back to the mainland. But the river levels will not go down until the floodgates close. Having cropped the available grass down to the ground, most of them are now too weak to move. Some have perished already. But an alarm was raised and help came quickly.

In response to an emergency appeal put out by The Zambezi Society, assistance came in the form of donations of fuel, transport, hay and other animal foodstuffs. A team of volunteers moved swiftly to get everything up to Mana Pools where National Parks deployed two boats to transport the food to the islands. It took some time for the animals to recognise this strange substance as food, but latest reports say that they have started eating.

The rescue effort will continue until the end of July, by which time the Kariba floodgates should be closed, the river levels should have gone down and the animals should be strong enough to swim.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this rescue effort should contact the Zambezi Society offices in Harare:

Online donations can be made through the Zambezi Society's partners in the UK (Save the Rhino International) at this link: <http://www.savetherhino.org/eTargetSRINM/site/568/default.aspx> (select **Zimbabwe-Zambezi Society** as a Project and **Buffalo crisis (Zamsoc)** as the Sub-Project).

### **NAVIGATORS TOURS & SAFARIS**

We specialise in personally-guided small-group tours and safaris to remote destinations in Southern Africa. Bring your equipped 4x4 vehicle, camping equipment, accessories, food, drinks, enthusiasm and sense of adventure! For those who doesn't have their own 4x4 vehicle, we also offer an all-inclusive booked-seat option on many of our tours – please visit our website or contact us for details. Alternatively, contact us with your plans and travel dates, and ask us to design a tailor-made package for you.

#### **Remaining scheduled self-drive tours for 2010:**

**Khaudum & Caprivi : Remote Namibia – 11 Nights**  
**Tour Dates: 4 – 15 October 2010**



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

**Liuwa Plain : Wildebeest Migration – 10 Nights**  
**Tour Dates: 9 – 19 November 2010**

**Kalahari Black-Maned Lions Safari – 8 Nights**  
**Tour Dates: 13 – 21 December 2010**

For further details on these and other tours, e-mail us at [info@navigator4wd.co.za](mailto:info@navigator4wd.co.za). Alternatively, contact Karen at our office on **landline: +27 (0) 21 689 1825** or contact Chris on his **cell: +27 (0) 83 675 3484**.

March 2010

---

## ***Hit the Trail ... / ... continues***

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK (2-7 AUGUST 2010)**

National Science Week supports the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. Celebrate Life on Earth at the National Zoo on 9 August 2010 as we bring you closer to Mother Nature with informative talks and presentations and interactive animal feedings and enrichment.

Further information can be obtained from [info@nzg.ac.za](mailto:info@nzg.ac.za)

### **NEED A TAX SERVICE THIS YEAR?**

**ALTIMAX - TAX RETURNS.** The new tax season is here, let the experts do it for you. Altimax is a firm of registered chartered accountants, professional accountants and master tax practitioners.

Contact Anne-Marie Ungerer (member) @ 083 3040671 during office hours or [amu@altimax.co.za](mailto:amu@altimax.co.za) / [www.altimax.co.za](http://www.altimax.co.za)

### **TIGER FISHING – COMING WITH?**

#### **Hows All!**

I have been asked to put lads **Zambezi River** tiger fishing weekend together and here it is!  
**Dates: In: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Out Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

The dates are set in stone (unfortunately) as I have managed to get a good rate, we are flying into Kasane which is in Botswana but very close to the lodge/Zambezi River. The three night package includes **two full days tiger/bream fishing** and I can assure you the fishing is awesome as it is in an unspoilt and protected part of the Zambezi. The game viewing is pretty good too!

I was there a few weeks ago and did a story on the lodge and the fishing [www.maplanga.co.za](http://www.maplanga.co.za) click on Newsletters – click on **Some say you cannot catch Zambezi Tiger in winter.**

Let me know soonest, deposit of 50% secures **AND** the price includes airport taxes!!



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

Cheers  
Chris Wood – contact me at [advertising@maplanga.co.za](mailto:advertising@maplanga.co.za)



### **IMBABALA LODGE TIGER WEEKEND - ZIMBABWE**

Rate Per person sharing: **R6, 995**  
Travel dates: **3 – 6 September 2010**

#### **Includes:**

Return flights with Air Botswana from Johannesburg to Kasane  
Return airport transfers from Kasane airport to Imbabala lodge  
3 night's accommodation at Imbabala  
All meals  
Drinks during activities (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)  
2 x activities daily (game drive AM/PM, River cruise AM/PM)  
2 x full days fishing  
Airport taxes

#### **SAVE MAPUNGBWE!!!!**

You may be aware that the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) has provided a mining licence which allows CoAL of Africa (an Australian company) to proceed with open cast and underground coal mining just 5.4 km from the border of Mapungubwe National Park and World Heritage Site. This area forms the core of the new Trans-frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) which will include SA, Botswana and Zimbabwe. This area should become an international tourism jewel for generations to come – if it doesn't fall to the short-term, get rich quick interests of those standing to benefit from a coal mine.

This mine is opposed by many government departments including the Department of the Environment. No water licence has yet been issued by the Dept Water Affairs. A coalition of NGO's is in the final stages of preparing for legal action against the DMR as this department continues to act completely unilaterally and, we believe, illegally.

#### **PLEASE... WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Open the link to the site below and sign the petition. This campaign forms an important aspect of the looming battle to help preserve SA's sensitive environmental areas, water resources and farming operations against the increasing plethora of indiscriminate mining approvals.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

<http://www.savemapungubwe.org.za/>

Kind regards,  
Nick Hiltermann  
Chairman – Mapungubwe Action Group

**GET BUSINESS & TOURISTS BACK INTO LUDERITZ!!!!**

2nd July 2010

**Dear Lüderitz Business Sector**

Re: Road along the Coast from Alexander Bay, Oranjemund to Lüderitz

It is time that we start doing something to get business back into Lüderitz. We must stop waiting for others to do this for us. I propose to do the following and I trust that I get your support in doing this: I can see big opportunities for the two towns on the Namibian side of the border, namely Oranjemund and Lüderitz, if tourists can travel this road along the coast.

Tourists are not overly happy and very often decide on the spot, while in Aus, to carry on driving North or staying over in Aus respectively. They find it a schlep to go the Panhandle way – one way in and the same way out of Lüderitz! Tourists and South Africans alike would love to come to our country, travel up north along the coast and the Namib Desert, to the Etosha Park and then come back via the R1 to go to Windhoek or SA.

The argument has always been that the Sperrgebiet is closed and nobody may go in there. We understand why!!! But we are told more and more that there are no more diamonds to be picked up on land. They are now only left in the sea. So why can we not find away that this road and area can be useful to the people around here! I am aware that the Sperrgebiet has been declared a National Park. I cannot see what that means to the livelihood of the people, as it is still as closed as always, for the last 102 years.

This Park will have to do something for the people around it. Why can we not travel on Routes and Roads through the Park with an escort or with guides or with concession holders? Reasonable fees can be charged for guiding them or taking them to the places to see!!! They could be escorted in the morning from Luderitz to Oranjemund and vice versa. This could be done charging a fee!!! If we can get the Sperrgebiet Park opened, then we can start seeing a difference to the development and the sustainability of the two mentioned towns!

Then we will have people here to have a look at and to experience all our attractions – Starting with our Bogenfels if you arrive from the south, maybe a look at the red crater, the desert and the ghost towns everywhere, our beautiful coast, the seals and then of course our eco-systems preserved by the closing of the desert for the last 102 years. What about our Peninsular, the Diaz Cross, the old German colonial and historical town itself, our harbour, the beautiful buildings and of course Shark Island with its rich history. There are so many things in the line of entertainment / adventurism that can be started and that will become sustainable if we have enough people coming to our town and making use of them !!!

People locally will be able to develop their own businesses, including Tour Guiding, but also many other interesting things that are currently not offered – cobble stoned historical streets, the old Muslim history with the very old houses, some of them still standing today can be shown and explained, the opening of a 4x4 area just outside the airport for 4x4 driving under guidance and



for a fee, the opening and development of Township Tours, the Agate Beach and the obvious, fishing.

Of course there is fish to catch, however, we have to market the season and we have to make it exciting; shark fishing, cray-fishing for tourists and so many other fishing types. Go out with a boat; do snoek fishing, offer everything that we have including the supply of fishing rods, crayfish nets etc. and people will stay for a few days. With our crayfish festival in April we already have a foot in the door. It would be so inspiring if people come here, find things to do and then can spread the word.

Colleagues, we intend to lobby the Prime Minister, **Honourable Nahas Angula**, the Minister of Mines and Energy, **Honourable Isak Katali**, the Environment and Tourism Minister, **Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** and to involve the NTB to get this thing going soon. All we are asking from you is your support in this Endeavour and, if you do support this, we request you to please sign the list attached. We would then attach this to the lobby letter and hand it over to the Ministers concerned.

Yours Sincerely

**Ulf Grunewald Operations Director, Nest Hotels**  
*(We will watch this development with interest. Ed)*

### **VULTURE RESTAURANTS**

Vulture restaurants are a well known tourism attraction in South Africa. KwaZulu-Natal have a number in places such as Giant's Castle, Spiokenkop and Weenen. They are places where fresh and poison-free meat and carcasses of domestic livestock or wild mammals are put out for vultures and other scavengers.

Vultures worldwide, are threatened through the use of poisons and through the fact that there is far less wildlife which provided the carcasses on which they naturally fed. Modern stock farming regulations requires dead domestic animals be removed or buried to prevent disease thus depriving the vultures of another source of food.

Therefore vulture restaurants or feeding stations contribute to the survival of these birds, especially during periods of food scarcity and when young birds fledge. Vultures make up the ultimate link of the chain of birds' ecological function. They prevent scattering of avian saprophytic bacteria and microorganisms by consuming animals that have deceased and are in the progress of decomposition. Vultures can fly 400-500 kilometers in search of carcasses and while doing this, they generally glide, making use of hot airflows and not consuming much energy.

As with many of mans interventions in natural systems, the proliferation of vulture restaurants may lead to positive and negative effects both on scavengers and other species in the ecosystems. Communal species of vultures may benefit from feeding and show increases in numbers. Solitary species such as the Bearded Vulture may show increased numbers of pairs, but lowered breeding success due to more birds being attracted to one area.

Studies have highlighted the fact that care must be taken when placing a vulture restaurant, feeding station or any site with a constant food supply, as it may potentially create a serious conservation dilemma, especially if the site is situated in an area inhabited by endangered prey



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

species. In this sense, more research on the effect of carrion resource aggregations on the functioning of ecosystems is necessary.

Even though the most imperative motive to create vulture restaurants is to sustain the vulture race, birdwatchers, nature photographers and nature lovers, who may stopover at these restaurants, will add value to the area on economic grounds via nature tourism. Though we tend to think of vulture restaurants as a South African phenomenon, they are a world wide programme in vulture conservation, which is used in many countries such as Bulgaria, Mexico, India, Nepal and Spain, to mention a few.

KZN Wildlife

### **SUMMER STARGAZING WITHOUT A TELESCOPE**

If you find yourself under a perfect night sky without a telescope this summer, don't despair. There's still lots to see. Here are 10 ideal targets for summer stargazing, sans optics.

- **The Milky Way.** In good dark sky, you can see 1,500 to 2,000 individual stars. But look also for the star-clogged arms of the Milky Way high overhead. These knotted white clouds are millions of unresolved stars, and they are a jaw-dropping sight, to be enjoyed whenever you can. The Milky Way towards the constellation Sagittarius and Scorpius. The open star cluster Messier 7 is the hazy patch at bottom, center.

- **Multiple Star Systems.** Test your eyes by resolving the famed "double double" star, epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) Lyrae. Located just northeast of blue-white Vega, this double star is barely resolved into two components by a keen pair of eyes. Each component itself is a closely-spaced double star resolvable in a telescope... so it's a quadruple star. Vega, and its constellation Lyra, are directly overhead in northern latitudes, and further down towards the northern horizon for southern-hemisphere observers this time of year.

- **Globular Clusters.** Find the Great Globular Cluster M13 in the constellation Hercules, right next to Lyra. While just at the limit of human eyesight, M13 holds a million stars some 13 billion years old. While M13 lies a distant 25,000 light years from Earth, Kurt Vonnegut wrote, "Every passing hour brings the Solar System forty-three thousand miles closer to Globular Cluster M13 in Hercules — and still there are some misfits who insist that there is no such thing as progress." In the southern hemisphere, try to spot the even more spectacular globular cluster Omega Centauri. The constellations Lyra and Hercules, showing the position of the "double double" star epsilon Lyrae and the Great Globular Cluster M13.

- **Bright Planets.** In the western sky this month, you can see bright Venus, Mars, and Saturn following the sun below the horizon just after sunset. And on the opposite side of the sky, rising a little before midnight, look for the steady glow of Jupiter rising in the southeast. While you can't see any surface detail on these planets without a telescope, you can pass many pleasant moments tracking them across the sky from night to night against the background stars

- **Satellite Galaxies.** Those of you in the southern hemisphere can inspect the Magellanic Clouds, two dwarf galaxies associated with our Milky Way. Their irregular shape is a consequence of their low mass and strong tidal interactions with our galaxy.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features various plastic products including a white storage bin, a red cooler, a blue cooler, and a person using a tool to work on a plastic mold.

- **Artificial Satellites.** You can easily see dozens of artificial satellites whizzing across the sky each night. They look like bright stars that decided to make a break for it. Follow the path of each, and note any change in brightness as it tumbles or moves into the Earth's shadow. Also note your time of observation. You might be able to determine which satellite you saw using the tools on free websites like Heavens Above.
- **Open Star Clusters.** Look towards the southern horizon for the unmistakable shape of the constellation Scorpius, the Scorpion. Nestled in the tail just above the "stinger", you'll see a hazy patch of blue-white starlight (see the image of the Milky Way, above). This is Messier 7, a loose cluster of some 80 stars born 200 million years ago, just as the dinosaurs began to dominate the Earth. Linger awhile in this part of the sky. It offers splendid viewing for every stargazer.
- **The Zodiacal Light.** If you're lucky enough to have very dark sky, see if you can spot the whitish zodiacal light extending along the ecliptic in the west after sunset, or the east before sunrise. This eerie glow is caused by sunlight scattering off dust particles in the plane of the solar system.
- **Meteors.** Lie on a blanket or lawn chair on a warm night, stare up at the clear sky, and just wait for an occasional meteor to shoot by. And don't forget the biggest meteor shower of the summer, the Perseids, on or about August 12. Try to look after midnight to see the most meteors during the Perseids... as many as one or two every minute.
- **The Sun.** No, don't look at the sun directly!! But try this... poke a pinhole in a business card and try to project the image of the sun onto a piece of paper or a wall. You may see a few larger sunspots if you project the unmagnified image onto 2-3 feet away.

There's much to see in the sky, even without a telescope. And remember, in the 16th century, a few decades before the telescope was invented, one of the most important (and flamboyant) astronomers of all time, Tycho Brahe, made thousands of precise naked-eye observations of the stars and planets. His measurements enabled his assistant Johannes Kepler to discover his Laws of Planetary Motion, which led to Issac Newton's discovery of the Laws of Universal Gravitation.

### **NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED**

Hi Guys

A new website has been launched detailing all the wonders of South Africa from Outdoor Activities and Adventures to Indoor Activities and Adventures and everything in between. We have included some information about the natural world around us, although as that is an extremely large subject it is by no means complete and a lot of work still needs to be done on some of them. As this is an interactive website, any comments, reports, pictures and information you would like to include would be gratefully accepted. Recognition will be attributed to you.

Our main aim is to generate funds to be utilized for the upliftment of various communities and therefore 50% of your payment will go towards the implementation thereof. The more subscribers the higher the percentage will be utilized to help those in need. More details regarding that is on the website Retail Accounting Management will oversee the accounting side to ensure that the correct allocations are enforced.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with various plastic products including a white cooler, a red cooler, a blue cooler, and a white cooler with a handle. A person is shown using a red cooler. The text is in blue and black, with the slogan 'Anything's Possible' in a cursive font.

As we will not only be focusing on community upliftment in Gauteng but all over South Africa, we will be travelling quite a bit and during the course of our travelling we will focus on the various towns and cities, on what they have to offer the weary traveler, what exciting activities and adventures they have on the market and what is of interest to see and do. A travelling blog will be implemented detailing our excursions and probably the many mishaps that we encounter along the way so that you can follow our journey.

Enough talk. Check out our website and help us to not only help the community but make this the best and safest country to visit.

Kind Regards

Zanthe Kotze

<http://www.theadventurebegins.co.za>

### **AIR NAMIBIA NEEDS HELP**

According to reports, the Prime Minister of Namibia, Hon. Nahas Angula, recently made a suggestion that **the tourism industry might support Air Namibia** through an increase in the tourism levy. Air Namibia has experienced financial difficulties for some years now, and bailouts from state sources, widely reported in local media, point to growing unpopularity. The Prime Minister's suggestion has cast a pall over the industry.

A survey of return flights ex FRA show that Air Namibia lies in the same price range as other airlines. Superficially, it should be profitable, but other problems make the airline a difficult proposition.

The most recent source of dissatisfaction is cancellation of the Gatwick flight. This has reportedly had a major impact on operators specialising in the UK and USA markets. In past years, there have been comments about the airline's poor management of block bookings, leading to cancellation of flights on short notice, that were reportedly not able to take more passengers. There have been other well publicised events in which the airline has not been able to fly, causing chaos on itineraries. And there is the expensive question of whether one long haul aircraft is enough to service the route?

If the industry is to provide additional finance for Air Namibia, the questions that should be raised are how Air Namibia serves the sector, particularly in terms of routes, and how the industry can make a meaningful input into improving the airline's circumstances and its impact on tourism?

However the most important consideration is that it is not the industry who will finance Air Namibia, but the traveller to whom the additional cost will be passed. So whether the traveller chooses to fly Air Namibia or not, in the event of an addition to the levy, the traveller will be made to pay.

As the tourism levy is charged on accommodation, an increment might not only affect overall demand for Namibia but could also affect accommodation choices. This should be viewed against the backdrop of overseas operators negotiating on amounts of as little as EUR 5 per head on series.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with various plastic products including a white tray, a red box, a blue container, and a person using a tool on a green mold. The text is prominently displayed in blue and black.

As this is being written the news has broken that Namibia Wildlife Resorts is also in urgent need of a bailout. The cost implications are obvious.

The unsettling fact is that various costs that are passed on from the tourism sector to the traveller are increasing and multiplying: from operating costs and road usage, to conservancy fees and incidental conservancy costs, and now the spectre of additional costs for Air Namibia.

The assessment of tourism's capability to deliver on development goals appears to be primarily based on 2007's mood of optimism. To what extent tourism can achieve the development goals that are expected of it, against the tide of costs and crises, needs to be assessed against a range of cost and demand scenarios that better reflect current global economic circumstances. Tourbrief.com

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY RANGE ROVER**

The Range Rover was launched in June 1970. This year, all over the world, Land Rover and its customers are celebrating the 40th anniversary of its premium brand, the first "celebrity 4x4".

Part of Land Rover SA's contribution was a four-course dinner for the media in a huge conference hall in Johannesburg that had been divided into four rooms, each representing a decade of Range Rover history, with appropriate décor and examples of the then-current Range Rovers on display.

There we were reminded of the Range Rover's beginnings as "a more comfortable Land Rover with better road manners" while 1970's rock and disco music playing in the background took the older guests back in time to when flared trousers and wide collars were cool.

Early Range Rovers were quite spartan, with vinyl upholstery, a plain metal finish in the boot and no cover over the tool tray but that soon changed after Buckingham Palace let it be known that "a Corgi could be hurt" by the exposed tools. Loud printed fabrics, optic-fibre lighting and music by Queen greeted us in the 1980's room where Land Rover SA marketing manager Roland Reid detailed the Range Rover's history in South Africa - which goes back nearly as far as the car itself.

It was scheduled for release here in 1972 but the turmoil of the time at parent company Leyland delayed the launch until 1979, by which time production of the Range Rover's V8 engine had been ramped up enough to allow expansion into new markets.

In the second half of 1979 Range Rovers were being assembled in Leyland's old Mini plant at Blackheath, near Cape Town, initially at about eight a day, and the cars went on sale in October of that year at R18 400. The hefty price was justified by high spec levels, including several features which were optional extras in other markets, such as carpets, brushed-nylon upholstery, factory-fitted aircon, a radio/tape deck and extra engine-cooling fans.

The four-door Range Rover arrived in South Africa in 1983, but only as an import, and when the two-door was dropped from the range a year later production at Blackheath ended. By then, however, the Range Rover, growing more luxurious (and more expensive!) with every update, was well established as the lifestyle vehicle of choice for South Africans with a love of the great outdoors and the means to indulge it in luxury.



And so it remains to this day. A string of special-edition variants and the introduction of the Range Rover Sport in 2005 have established the marque as a brand in its own right (we heard all about that over our main course in the 1990's room), a status which will be cemented by the arrival of the compact, environmentally-friendly Evoque in the second half of 2011.

And finally, over sweets and coffee in the Noughties room, we were introduced to the utterly luxurious Range Rover 40th Anniversary commemorative edition, which retails for R1.4-million, for which you could have bought 76 of the 1979, Blackheath-built, two-doors.

Happy 40th birthday, Range Rover, and many more.

#### **SAFARI CENTRE VEREENIGING HAS MOVED**

Vereening branch has moved down the road to 68 Voortrekker Road , a few blocks away from their previous premises. Feel free to drop by and see the brand new look of Safari Centre Vereening.

Their co-ordinates are S26° 41.180; E27° 55.594 or phone them at 016 422 7155/6.

#### **I CAN HELP YOU ARRANGE A KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION**

Dear Sir

I am writing to tell you a little about me and my company Kili-Worldborn Safaris ([www.kili-worldbornsafaris.com](http://www.kili-worldbornsafaris.com)). My name is Fares Moshy and I am a qualified mountain guide and have worked in the tourism industry for more than 20 years. Personally , I have climbed Kilimanjaro on all the routes more than 800 times, guiding groups of varying sizes and of all different nationalities. I have specialised knowledge of the flora and fauna of the region and have also guided on Meru, Oldonyo Lengai, Mount Kenya, and on walking safaris in the Usambara and Pare Mountains .

Some of my special achievements have been guiding two groups of blind people on Kili', taking a paraplegic , with artificial legs, up the Western Breach route, and guiding people of many different ages successfully.

If you need a very experienced tour operator on any of the East African Mountains or for 'safari' in Tanzania (Northern & Southern circuits), please feel free to contact me via e-mail on [info@kili-worldbornsafaris.com](mailto:info@kili-worldbornsafaris.com) or by telephone on + 33 555 64 98 87 or +255 754 2873 45. My company can also arrange hotel accommodation, cultural tours, and we can arrange equipment and transfers to other destinations in East Africa,(Zanzibar, Pemba, the Ruwenzori Mountains, for example) via our wide network of contacts in the hotel and tourism industry.

If you have any questions or requests, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

With Very Best Regards,  
Fares Moshy (Bongo)

#### **A HIGH LAKE....HOUSEBOATS IN THE TREES!**

Marineland Harbour's June newsletter reports that autumn has well and truly settled in and that Kariba has had its first bush fires. But, says Derek Adamson, "the trees are retaining their leaves



for longer this year, I presume because of the late rains in April. Across the lake the high water level is providing moorings along the Matusadona shoreline that haven't been possible for many years, in many places the bow of the houseboat is right in amongst the growing trees. Unfortunately, because there's no foreshore, you don't see a lot of game, but there must be a lot of nutrients entering the water food chain, and that augers well for future fishing !

During the second week of June the lake level stabilized, so the outflow through the three half gates that were still open obviously began to exceed the inflow from the Zambezi, and all at Marineland gave a huge sigh of relief ! In the latter part of the month, the water level started to drop and as at the end of the month it had dropped by approximately 350mm/400mm from its previous high mark.

We waited with anticipation for the World Cup tourists to arrive to no avail. What did arrive were a good number of South African 'escapees' from the World Cup congestion. These were the hardy 4 x 4 camping tourists who were just generally touring from place to place around Zimbabwe, and they brought a good amount of extra business to Kariba. Reports were that they all had good experiences once they got through the border post, and the only major complaint were the number of Police road blocks.

During the month, there've been numerous reports of lion sightings in and around Kariba, many of which seem to have been late at night. (??Mmmmm??) There are some buffalo around and the groups of zebra around Kariba have been dropping foals all over the place, so there's a good chance that some stray lions may be popping by for a quick Kariba take away !

With the small influx of South African visitors, there was an increase in houseboat charters during June and there are indications that it will continue through early July. Our small fleet of hire boats continues to be hired but there are still many days in the month where they are completely idle. Our large transfer boats are also only operating on a sporadic basis; with all of these services we continue to operate in the hope of better times ahead."

---

### **BHEJANE 4x4 TOURS**

#### ***All the prices quoted include***

- All guest-house, lodge and or tented accommodation
- All camp fees
- Three meals a day
- All park entrance fees
- All advertised activities
- Bhejane Adventures provides all the tents, cutlery and crockery
- Coffee & Tea – all day every day whilst in camp

#### ***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



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

**2010 Tours:**

***Trans Botswana, Caprivi, Victoria Falls & Chobe National Park***  
***23 July to 2 August (124) / 24 September to 4 October 2010 (130)***  
10 night adventure (tented accommodation)  
Cost: R7950, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Follow the contrast from the vast sand flats of the Makgadikgadi Pans, to the papyrus lined canals of the Okavango Delta and experience the magnificent Chobe National Park on a game drive, in an open safari vehicle and a boat cruise on the Chobe River.

Join us to discover the marvels of this geological intrigue as we travel from Kubu Island on into the Caprivi Strip via the mysterious Tsodilo Hills, eastwards along the Chobe River and on to the mighty Zambesi at the Victoria Falls.

***Faces of the Namib Desert***  
***17 to 22 October 2010 (134)***

6 night adventure (tented accommodation)  
Cost: R6000, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Do you believe that travel should be about more than “just looking” – and that every journey should be a life-enriching experience? Do you yearn to go off-the-beaten-track and experience unspoilt nature? If you answered YES, then you MUST experience the Namib.

The Namib Desert is a unique part of Southern Africa, which on first impression looks dangerous, uninviting and devoid of any life. This impression however, is very deceiving, as the Namib is full of surprises with a rich treasure of discovery for those fascinated by its unique beauty and to safely traverse these mighty dunes is a truly humbling experience.

Reported to be the oldest desert on earth, the Namib is approximately 80 million years old. Completely devoid of surface water, it is bisected by several dry riverbeds and is characterised by extensive, undulating dunes.

***Mozambique – Big Game to Coral Reefs***  
***25 September to 3 October 2010 (132) / 4 to 12 October 2010 (133)***

8 night adventure (tented & chalet accommodation)  
Cost: R8250. 00 or (R7650.00 for tented & room accommodation)  
(children under 10 @ 50%)

Starting in the magnificent Kruger Park, we travel east into the lush lowlands of Mozambique, we cross the mighty Limpopo and on to the coastal flood plains.

In chalets almost on the beach, near the town of Ihassoro, overlooking Bazaruto Island, we can experience the true feeling of this tropical paradise.

Having obtained permits to do so, we explore the tropical beaches, discovering the wonders of the coral lined coast, and with luck, we may encounter the elusive dugong.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

***Ivory Trail & Greater Kruger National Park  
8 to 14 August 2010 (127)***

6 night adventure (Tented bush-camp with on suite accommodation)  
(Limited to ten persons only)

Cost: R7350, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

South Africa's premier game reserve KNP has in recent years become extensively larger as its boundaries shift into transfrontier parks and conservation areas in the form of conservancies.

Three of these areas are exclusive due to their 4x4 access only. The Makuya area in the northwest, the Letaba Ranch area in the central west and the Manyaletie area bordering the Sabi Sands . We spend two nights in each area, in private camps with tented bush lodge accommodation that only sleep ten people.

This is a private safari with high-tech game viewing, guided drives and walks, at a very competitive rate.

***Lesotho - Kingdom in the Sky  
17 to 21 September 2010 (129A)***

4 night adventure (guest house accommodation)

Cost: R5250. 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

You and your family will enjoy the experience of navigating mountain tracks with names such as "Jockstrap Pass" and "God Help Me Pass" which sit at an average height of over 2 500m above sea level. Join us on our self-drive trip in Western Lesotho.

Not only is this one of the most scenic parts of Southern Africa, but the cultural and historic secrets that you will discover will intrigue you. You will gain an appreciation of this beautiful little country in the sky with its friendly people that are the protectors for most of South Africa's fresh water.

This is a wonderful adventure for all types of 4-wheel drive vehicles and offers excitement for the whole family.

***Etosha – Skeleton Coast, Land of the Desert Rhino  
20 to 31 August 2010 (128) / 2 to 13 September 2010 (129)***

11 night adventure (tented accommodation)

Cost: R8950.00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

After the brief summer rains have come and gone the Etosha becomes a great, dry ghostly place, with mirages shimmering over its vast 130 x 50 kilometre expanse. The verges of the lake are however, well treed and grassed, with several springs providing water for the numerous animals and birds which live permanently around the pan.

A visit to Etosha, Damaraland and the Skeleton Coast is a never to be forgotten experience for the connoisseur of scenery, atmosphere and the unusual that only the "dorsland" of the Kalahari and the Namib can offer,



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

**Zambia – Liuwa Plains Wildebeest Migration**

**1 to 10 November 2010 (135)**

9 night adventure (tented accommodation)

Cost: R9450, 00 per person (children under 10 @ 50%)

Our route takes us from Kasane in Botswana to Katima Mulilo in Namibia, where we catch our first glimpse of the Mighty Zambezi. Following the course of the Zambezi past the Sioma Falls we cross the Barotse Floodplains and on through the town of Kalabo in Western Zambia.

From Kalabo, we enter the Liuwa Plains National Park where we will encounter the second biggest wildebeest migration in Africa. At times, wildebeest and their calves can be seen in their hundreds, followed by the predators that stalk them.

Contact Frank or Dennis on [info@bhejane.com](mailto:info@bhejane.com)

January 2010

---

## ***From the Tracks – Reader Feedback***

### **AN INTERESTING COMMENT BY A READER!**

Beste Alan

Ek neem vrymoedigheid om in Afrikaans te skryf en jy kan gerus in Engels antwoord.

Ek kry gereeld jou E-Zine en so pas weer die kennisgewing van “Trip 29 - Enthusiasts Interest Meeting”. Ek waardeer en geniet jou nuusbrief. Ek woon op Warmbad en kan daarom nie die vergaderings maklik bywoon nie. Dis egter nie net die afstand wat ‘n probleem is nie, maar ook omdat vuurwapens verbode is.

Ek wil graag weet waarom vuurwapens by die vergaderings nie toegelaat word nie. Ek kan verstaan waarom troeteldiere nie toegelaat word nie, maar ‘n vuurwapen is in die hande van ‘n verantwoordelike eienaar baie skadeloos. Ek ry nie Pretoria toe sonder my vuurwapen nie en veral nie in die nag nie. Dit is nog ‘n rede waarom ek dit nie oorweeg het om ‘n vergadering by te woon nie. Ek loop nie met hom op die heup rond soos ‘n cowboy nie en my wapen is vir niemand sigbaar nie, maar as my vuurwapen nie welkom is nie, kan ek ook nie die vergaderings bywoon nie. Ek neem jou nie kwalik vir die reël nie, maar ek sal graag wil weet waarom dit verbode is.

Baie dankie vir jou goeie werk!

Groete  
Theuns Kriek

***(I responded to Theuns that the template used is a club template, for the invite, and those rules exist within my club. As a non gun-toter, I have no issues with people who use weapons for their personal safety, but having some close friends killed by their own guns***



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

*in past years by criminal elements, I personally will not own a weapon. What are your views? Ed)*

**SPEEDOMETER ARTICLE COMMENTARY**

In response to the query in your e-Zine:

You were describing the cheating that goes on with odometers in second hand cars. Nowadays, when renewing a car licence, we are obliged to supply the odometer reading. Ostensibly it is meant to check on just this same phenomenon. But how can Joe Soap who is looking at buying specific second hand car, get this record out of the Natis system? Queuing at the municipal car registration counters is no fun. Could you find out and report? (*This is where I need reader input – HELP! Any ideas people? ED*)

The Ford car techies say it is possible to change the reading on the odometer illegally and if a cluster is replaced, the odometer will start from zero again. I checked the eNATIS website and it's clearly stated that public cannot obtain info directly from them.

**National Call Centre eNaTIS (USERS ONLY) (1)**

The National Call Centre does not deal with queries from the PUBLIC. If you are not an eNaTIS user, please choose one of the categories on the Contact US page relevant to your query. This is the contact details of the National Call Centre for registered users of the eNaTIS system.

However, I was told that odometer readings are not maintained on NATIS database so it would not help Joe Soap to contact them anyway. The Change of Ownership or license renewal forms apparently states/asks for Odometer Readings IF AVAILABLE which indicates that it's not a requirement. We don't add this info when we sell our company cars and have never had an issue with it. Omitting the info is also safer than writing something in which you are not 100% sure of.

The most important thing a buyer of a 2nd hand vehicle should insist on before purchasing a car, is the service record. From this it will be very easy to see if the km readings correspond to the age of the vehicle and service record. The vehicle dealer will be able to assist with this.

A rather long-winded answer which I hope helps.  
Cheers

Elmarie Swanepoel

**NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK**

Hi Alan,  
Thanks for all the interesting info.

May I just mention that my son is a professional photographer and should you at any time require his services here are his contact details .

Jurgen Vogt, Randpark Ridge, Johannesburg

Tel: +27 82 449 6064

web site: [www.swissphotography.co.za](http://www.swissphotography.co.za) / email: [info@swissphotography.co.za](mailto:info@swissphotography.co.za)



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with various plastic products including a white tray, a red container, a blue container, and a person working on a mold. The text is prominently displayed in blue and black.

Regards  
Shanka  
Eagle View Guest House, Ficksburg

Hi Alan  
Can you please put this in your newsletter? Thanks for all your effort, the newsletter is cool every month  
Thanking you  
Christo Hartzer

**EXCELLENT SERVICE FROM VENDORS**

Hi Alan  
I have spoken to Mark McMaster @ Waterfall Mall Supa Quick in Kempton Park area. I am very impressed with his prices that he quoted. I have arranged for fitment next week Saturday. Thanks for your assistance.

Stefan Kruger  
*(Anybody – for the best tyre deals in town, be sure to give Mark a call, as I get regular responses like this! Ed)*

Hi Alan,  
Some weeks ago you helped me out by programming my two GME GX300 radios the day before quite an extensive trip through botswana, zambia and zimbabwe.

The radios worked perfectly after you programmed the frequencies, and quite frankly it kept us from serious accidents more times than I can list.

Your willingness to assist is very much appreciated.  
Thanks again.  
Regards,  
Andre Marais  
*(Only a pleasure boet – we are after all, 1 4x4 community! Ed.)*

**ENTHUSIAST MEETING FEEDBACK**

Hi Alan, just a big thank you for letting us chat about our bikes at your meet.  
Michel Reolon:  
Cell 082 803 1797 Fax 0865903099  
Distributor of Zoota Electric Bicycles  
*Top Speed: 25Kph // Range: 25 Km + per Charge // Electricity Cost: 1 cent per Km*  
[www.greenbike.co.za](http://www.greenbike.co.za)

---



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with blue and red text. It includes images of various custom-molded plastic parts, such as a blue storage bin, a red container, and a white tray. A person is shown working on a mold.

## ECO4X4AFRICA FOR SAFARIS AND TOURS IN 12 AFRICAN COUNTRIES 2010

This Tour program is for the 4x4 Off-road Club and for members receiving the E-Zine newsletter

The following Terms and Conditions apply for **Club Members only**

1. Adults – Listed price LESS 15% **for members and included for family members**
2. High School Children 13-18 years 50% of the listed price
3. Primary School Children 6-12 years 25% of the listed price
4. Not in School Children – 10% of the listed price
5. All tours for members are Non Catered Tours

The following Terms and Conditions apply for **Non Club Members but E-Zine Readers**

1. All persons – Listed Price LESS 5% - Adults to 6 years old's
2. All tours for Readers are Non Catered Tours.

### General

1. Nett prices are Nett and confirmed as Nett
2. Catering is possible and can be included at roughly 15% of the Listed Price

### **Tour 10: 21-29 Aug 2010 Namaqualand Bus Tour only and now cars/4x4's**

This tour is for elderly people who want to go and see the flower in Namaqualand

Nett Price R6500 Bus and B&B

1. Augrabies/ 2. Springbok/ 3. Garies/ 4. Lambertsbaai/ 5. Vanrhynsdorp/ 6. Calvinia/ 7. Upt

### **Tour 15: 29 Aug – 19 Sep Angola Luanda Tour R19500-23 Days Catered**

This tour is a fishing, beach and scenic tour from Ruacana to Luanda on the coastline & back via the best routes down to Leba Pass, Huambo and Lubango

1. Cunene mouth/ 2. Doodsakker/ 3. Flamingo Lodge/ 4. Benquela/ 5. Cabelado/ 6. Kwanza Lodge/ 7. Luanda City/ 8. Brug 14/ 9. Huambo/ 10. Lubango/ 11. Leba Pass Down&Up/

Planning for this tour starts on 1 June because of Visa requirements

All price include VAT and if you are register for VAT – Please request a VAT INVOICE

Some of these Tour can be used as a Corporate Reward Programs

### Contact Detail

Alex Smit

Professional Tour Operator & Guide

Registered: Adventure (4x4 & Overland), Nature (FGASA) and Culture (SA(DEAT Registered: GP2227)

Mobile: + 27 (0) 82 570 6010

Tel: + 27 (0) 12 743 5111 (Computer Office 1) / Tel: + 27 (0) 12 804 2701 (Office 2)

Fax: + 27 (0) 12 804 9382 (Office)

Email: [alex@eco4x4africa.com](mailto:alex@eco4x4africa.com)

Skype Name: eco4x4africa / Skype Number +27127435111



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

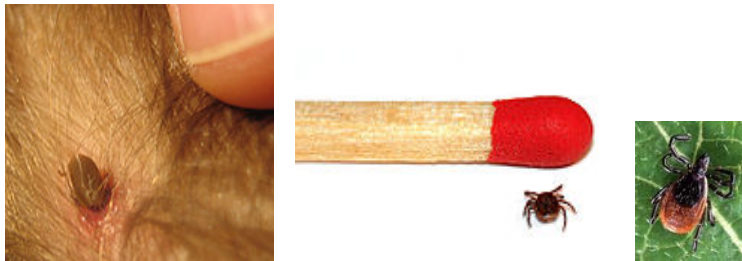
Membership of:  
Field Guide Association of SA  
Four Wheel Drive Guides Association SA  
South African Guests: [www.eco4x4africa.com](http://www.eco4x4africa.com)  
International Guests: [www.eco4x4safaris.com](http://www.eco4x4safaris.com)  
COMPANY: ECO4X4AFRICA CC (2006/162954/23)  
VAT: 4320235056  
*January 2010*



## ***Emergency Break!***

Hi to all our E-Zine Readers, This is for all who go hunting this time of the year!

### **Tick Bite**



Tick bite fever or rickettsia is a bacterial infection transmitted by ticks. These blood feeding parasites are often found in tall grass, under trees or on paths used by animals. The severity of this disease varies tremendously.

#### **What are the symptoms and signs?**

- fever
- headache
- rash
- palpitations
- swelling
- nausea

First aid treatment:



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

Remove the tick by using a good pair of tweezers. Grab the tick as close to the skin as possible and gently pull. Prevent infection by cleaning the area with an antiseptic solution. Seek medical help if symptoms worsen.

To look for ticks on the body, pay special attention to the legs, the groin area and in the hair where they are not easy to see. Never rub paraffin on the skin as this is a poison in itself and dangerous if absorbed.

**Tip: Always inspect your body and clothes after walking in the veld and through tall grass.**

Safe & Healthy 4x4ing  
Joke Wandrag  
Head of Training /Accredited Assessor and Moderator  
South African First Aid League  
Accredited with DOL & HWSETA  
[rwandrag@mweb.co.za](mailto:rwandrag@mweb.co.za) / [www.firstaidleague.co.za](http://www.firstaidleague.co.za)

---

## ***Fresh from the Bush – New Products***

### **VOETSPORE WINKEL MAAK OOP**

Beste Voetsporevriende,

Ons het vandag ons nuwe Voetsporewinkel oopgemaak. Nou is dit nie net 'n winkel op die webwerf nie, maar 'n regte winkel. Gaan maak gerus 'n draai by LA Sport Pretoria Oos in Lynnwoodweg, tel 012 809 0090, en gaan kyk na ons baadjies, hempde, boeke, DVD's, lampies ens.

Die doel van die Voetsporewinkel is om kwaliteit produkte teen bekostigbare pryse aan te bied. Produkte wat ons weet die toets van 'n safari deur Afrika deurstaan.

Vanaf aanstaande week dra ons ook die hele produktereeke van Canvas and Tent teen minstens 25% goedkoper as wat dit enige ander plek beskikbaar is. Dit sluit in tente, stoele, rugsakke, slaapsakke en nog vele meer.

Kom maak 'n draai. Ons wil julle graag daar sien.

Mooi loop,  
Johan Badenhorst

### **NEW TRAILER RENTAL COMPANY**

Good day! I would like to introduce myself and my product.

I have 3 x Conqueror off road camping trailers fitted for SA and Cross Boarder. It is rigged so mom and kids can enjoy the trip as well.



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features various plastic products including a white cooler, a red cooler, a blue cooler, a white plastic container, and a blue plastic container. A person is shown using a red cooler. The background is yellow.

There is a standard deposit of R5000 (refundable if nothing is to be replaced). The daily rental fee is:

- R558 ex Vat (high season)
- R489 ex Vat (low season)

Thank you very much!

Chenelle van Wyk  
Sun Arica Trading 52 cc  
Cell: 073 241 1580  
F2M: 086 578 5015

---

## ***The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedbacks***

### **KRUISRIVIER 4x4 WEEKEND - MPUMALANGA**

Our convoy met at The Rose filling station on the N4 and progressed to Middleburg and on to Kruisrivier, which is close to the Loskop Dam. This venue is close enough to enjoy on the spur of the moment. It only took us 3 hours to reach it.

After meeting the managers of Kruisrivier Nature Reserve at the picturesque lodge, we went on to our bush camp up in the hills. Our little cabins contained single beds with mattresses. These were very clean, as was the rest of the camp. We supplied our bedding. There was a large lapa in the centre of the camp and plenty of chairs and tables, around a large fire pit. We had a very neat kitchen and good ablutions with plenty of hot water.

The view from the camp was wonderful. I can just imagine how pretty it would be in the summer time when it is greener. After a very cold night, we went out to explore the 4x4 tracks & roads on the reserve. Our purpose was to find the herd of rhino who lived there. We did not find them, but enjoyed the journey of giraffes and the many buck species.

We drove to the top of the highest hill, and looked over the whole reserve, then it was on to a lovely lookout lapa on another hill, where we had lunch. Some of us used this time to do a quick braai. Then it was back to camp.

The night was spent stargazing under the leadership of Jonathan Greengrass. After it became too cold, we sat around the fire pit, enjoying dinner and the companionship of our fellow campers. Then it was off to bed.

After a leisurely breakfast, we packed and departed. Sadly another lovely weekend was almost gone. The Duffy and Wilshire families went to explore the main campsite at the reception and were very impressed with the quality of the chalets, pool, deck and kitchen area.

They are very reasonably priced and nicely situated. We will most likely be visiting there again in the not too distant future. We have to find those rhino!!!



We would like to thank you Alan, for showing us another little gem to enjoy. Looking forward to our next trip.

Nigel and Denise Wilshire

*Hi Alan and Keanan*

*Thanks for a really great weekend! It really is a stunning venue, and in summer, it will be spectacular. We had a relaxed, "chilled" weekend, with great fellowship and lots of laughs with good friends. Definitely a place to go back to!!!*

*Chuck, our dear little Jack Russell, says "thanks" for the hamburger! Charmaine, We missed you!*

*Best regards  
Jonathan and Jill*

Hi Alan, thanks for an awesome weekend Helen and I really enjoyed it relaxing with good friends. The trail was excellent on Saturday, some good bundu bashing, except this time the bundu bashed back and I got two nasty dents on the side of the car from a branch I rode over. On Saturday night the fellowship around the fire was great with some hearty laughs had by all. Sunday Helen and I decided to do a bit of exploring in the area where we had seen "obstacle 3", we visited "obstacle 1" but did not do it.

It seems these obstacles are made for the extreme 4x4er (something like the ones at Kroonstad), anyway it's not too advisable to venture around the tracks in that area alone as we came across a couple that we needed to reverse out of as the trail gets pretty hectic (or maybe I'm just chicken) but would not advise doing it on one's own. We saw quite a bit of game on the Sunday trip but alas no Rhino.

We met up with Jonathan and Jill at the gate at about 11h30 and had a nice easy trip back home. Thanks again to all for a fab weekend.

Neville and Helen Black

**A-MAZE-ing SOCIAL**

Dear Alan

Thanks again for the nice outing we had yesterday, hope to do it more often.

Regards

Thys Odendaal (Guest family at event)

*Yesterday's event was simply excellent! Thank you for organising and helping us celebrate an important American holiday with our friends from the club. Well done.*

*Best regards,  
John Scholtes and Family*



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with various plastic products including a red cooler, a blue cooler, a white cooler, and a blue cooler with a handle. A person is shown using a red cooler. The text is in blue and black, with the slogan 'Anything's Possible' in a stylized font.

Hi Alan, thanks for a fantastic day yesterday. It is always good getting out there with friends and Family. I also love it when we get to take the grannies with! Special thanks to you and Charmaine for putting on such a great burger spread for everybody. First prize should have gone to you guys for your fantastic effort.

Take care,  
The Keenan Family

*Hi Alan/Charmaine,  
Baie dankie weereens vir n great dag. Dankie vir al die moeite wat julle gedoen het om dit weereens n unforgettable klub trip te maak.*

*Groete,  
Die Lessings*

### **RIBBOKKLOOF 4x4 DAY TRIP**

Thanks for a lovely day yesterday and it was nice to see so many new faces the trip was fabulous.

Regards,  
Kim & Sanett van der Merwe

### **OUR WORLD CUP SAFARI**

Hi Alan

Ek (ons gesin), Koos vd M (en sy gesin) en twee vriende het pas terug gekeer van 'n ONGELOOFLIKE ervaring deur Botswana en Mozambique. Ons was 28 dae weg en het sowat 5500km agter die rug. Ons trip was: Pta, Maartinsdrif, Khama Rhino, Kubu, Nxia, Maun / Audi, 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge, Kwai Community, Francistown, Platjan, Louis Trichard, Punda Maria, Pafuri, Mapai (die rivier was in vloed, toe moes ons lang ompad ry), Limpopo transfrontier park, Masinger, Xia-Xia, Maxix, Morrungulu, Paidane, Komatiepoort, Alkmaar (Nelspruit) en huis toe! Geen boetes!!

Die pad was rof en onbeskof, nat en baie water so ons moes baie en lang ompaaie ry. Die pad was hard op die voertuie en sleepwaens – die Bush Mechanic kursus het ons die vertroue en kennis gegee om herstelwerk in die bos te doen, en ons ervaring met die klub het BAIE gehelp met die slegte paaie, plan maak met herstelwerk, en herwinnings. Ons het groot geskrik toe 'n voertuig in die konfooi oor die radio laat weet het dat die karavaan gerol het (die ou wat jou radio gehuur het). Ons klub ervaring het ingeskop en in 'n japtrap was almal kalm en die karavaan weer op sy wiele. Ons het oor die Okavango gevlieg in 'n ligte vliegtuig en op 'n bootjie deur die Delta gevaar. Dit was ongelooflik!

Ons het olifante, seekoeie, hyenas, wilde honde, leeus ens in ons kampe gehad in die nagte. Dit was 'n ervaring wat ons en veral die kinders nooit sal vergeet nie. Die vars pao, vars vis, prawns, seekat, inkvis, peri-peri hoender, ring-sting, 2M, R&R was baie lekker!

Ek sal 'n rubriek oor ons ervaring skryf en ook 'n DVD maak.



**BAIE DANKIE vir die klub, die ondervinding, ervarings en familie wat die klub ons bied. Al was dit nie 'n klub trip nie sou ons seker nooit die trip kon doen nie . . .**

Kind Regards  
André Verster

---

## ***The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy***

### **ECHO CHOVE CAMPERVAN FOR SALE**

I want to sell my chobe and buy something bigger,would you please put out to club members

2005 Echo Chobe 1  
Sleeps 4

Extras such 4 side panels,thicker mattress,16 inch rims,extra plugs in and outside,1800w inverter,new deep cycle battery  
Very good condition

R65 000 neg  
Contact johan 0832733905

### **2 x NAVSTAR HANDHELDS (29MHZ) FOR SALE**

Friend of mine has two handhelds for sale. As per pic (there are two external antennas, on pic only one showing) – 2 handheld, 2 external cig lighter connectors with aerial connector, which clips into unit, 2 aerials, 2 220v chargers included.  
R2500.00 lot.

If someone is interested.  
*Andre Smit*  
Cell: 083 376 0180  
[andre.smit@sita.co.za](mailto:andre.smit@sita.co.za)

### **BAKKIE FOR SALE**

Hi daar – as jy miskien van mense weet wat sou belangstel in ons bakkie, sal jy dit asb. vir hulle stuur?

Dis 'n 1997 Toyota Hilux 2.4 petrol 4x4.  
180 000kms op die klok in meganies uitstekende toestand, met diensrekord. Na 5603 kms kan ons getuig van sy betroubaarheid en uithouvermoë!!

Met ons terugkoms is die agterste briekskoene en “wheel bearings” Woensdag vervang.

Ekstras op die bakkie sluit in: (die engelse terme werk net beter)  
OME suspension



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

Long range fuel tank (140 litre capacity)  
40 litre water tank  
Custom built drawer system  
Roof rack  
Easi Awn rooftop tent  
27 MHz 2-way radio  
Radio with cd player  
Dual battery system  
Canvas awning complete with poles and tie downs  
Two new rear tyres fitted before trip (5600km) - BF Goodrich all terrain  
Spare fuel pump  
Spare water pump and hose  
Spare petrol filter  
2 spare wheels  
4 canvas camp chairs  
high lift jack  
1 gas bottle and top

Die prys is R90 000.  
Groete  
Anthea - [Anthea.Hughes@dsp.co.za](mailto:Anthea.Hughes@dsp.co.za)

**DEFENDER PUMA SEATS FOR SALE**

I have two brand new fold out back seats removed from my Defender Puma for sale. They go for about 7.5 G each new.

Any offers?  
Dries  
[Dries.cremer@sita.co.za](mailto:Dries.cremer@sita.co.za) 0834450586

**AIR SPRINGS FOR FORTUNER**

Hi all  
I removed my air suspension from my Fortuner when I sold it (6 months old). I am happy to sell it at R1750 (new price currently R2900). Anybody interested, please contact me?

Regards  
Ben van der Merwe  
Mobile +27 83 227 9561  
e-mail [ben@scanco.co.za](mailto:ben@scanco.co.za)

---



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with various custom-moulded plastic products, including a red toolbox, a blue storage bin, and a white container. A person is shown interacting with one of the bins.

## ***Flat Wheel – Light Relief***

### **NIGERIAN WORLD CUP AFTERMATH**

After Nigeria was eliminated from the world cup The Nigerian goalkeeper has personally offered to refund all the expenses of fans who travelled to South Africa.

He said he just needs their bank details and pin numbers to complete the transaction!!!!

### **SOME (APPARENTLY GENUINE) COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY A BIG UK SAFARI TOUR OPERATOR:**

"We had to queue outside with no air conditioning."

"I was bitten by a mosquito - no-one said they could bite."

A visitor overlooking a waterhole, who spotted a visibly aroused elephant, complained that the sight of this rampant beast ruined his honeymoon by making him feel "inadequate".

"My fiancé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked

### **CORPORATE SHAKE-UP**

If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shake-up, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

---



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

## ***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.

### **DISCOUNTS:**

#### **1) CAPESTORM**

Club members get a 10% at CAPESTORM owned shops, on production of there active club members card, on CAPESTORM clothing. All other apparel and items sold get a 5% discount. This excludes LEATHERMAN & SUUNTO equipment. No discounts on these 2.

#### **2) FRONT RUNNER**

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 Heath-Coombe (club member) now. 1 Forssman Close, Dytchley Road, Barbeque Downs, Kyalami - 011 466 0155 – [www.frontrunner.co.za](http://www.frontrunner.co.za)

#### **3) 4x4 INSURANCE**

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

#### **2) ISIBONELA ADVENTURES cc**

Discount on ALL Garmin GPS Products, 29 Mhz & VHF Radios, Windbags, FRONT RUNNER products and other 4x4 services & training. Send enquiry to [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za)

#### **3) SAFARI CENTRE - NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD DEAL**

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

Products excluded for discount:

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

#### **4) 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.

#### **5) PB ENTERPRISES – HIGHEST QUALITY POWER SYSTEMS & INSTALLATIONS**

Manufacturer of high quality Power Systems, Dual Battery Systems, Fully Equipped Battery Boxes, Power Converters & Battery Chargers for Trailers & Caravans, Solar- and Generator Amplification Chargers! They can definitely help you with the right electrical power products for ANY 4x4 vehicle, Off-road Trailer or Caravan/Camper.



Talk to the expert, Pieter Barnard, and **receive 5% discount on any of their products by supplying a copy of this page, PLUS the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club receive a 3% donation.** Just **print out THIS PAGE**, and give them a call. Let them do everything right, the first time. Have a look at their website! [www.pbeproducts.co.za](http://www.pbeproducts.co.za)

Contact: Pieter Barnard / Tel/Fax: 012 658 5538  
Mobile: 083 749 0445 / E-mail: [info@pbeproducts.co.za](mailto:info@pbeproducts.co.za)

### **6) 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](http://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 Strijdom Park, Randburg, just off the highway. Big Country really can be your 1-stop shop for all your 4x4 equipment!

Contact Richard on 011-791-7275 or [info@bigcountry4x4.com](mailto:info@bigcountry4x4.com)

***NO DISCOUNTS ARE APPLICABLE – THESE ARE VALUED SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLUB!***

### **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](mailto:echoacc@mweb.co.za).

Web: [www.echo4x4.co.za](http://www.echo4x4.co.za)

### **2) BOLTONS GPS WAREHOUSE / KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS**

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

#### **GAUTENG:**

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

[kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za](mailto:kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za) / [marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za](mailto:marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za) / [www.gpsconsultants.co.za](http://www.gpsconsultants.co.za)

#### **PORT ELIZABETH:**

Anthony Bruyns - [Anthony.Bruyns@halbergsa.com](mailto:Anthony.Bruyns@halbergsa.com)

**NO DISCOUNT OFFERED! - DISCOUNTED PRICES AVAILABLE FROM ISIBONELA ADVENTURES**

### **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



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

[http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/lmg\\_upload\\_departments/3674\\_441636.gif](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*

*Alan Goodway (GP 1796)  
Registered DEAT Cultural Tourist Guide - National  
Professional 4x4 Trail & Overland Guide - National  
Outcomes Based Assessor  
Member - 4 Wheel Drive Guides Association SA  
Owner - 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng)  
Co-Owner – 4-buy-4 direct store  
Regular Contributor – Offroad & Outdoor E-Zine / SA 4x4 / Bridgestone Going Places Magazine / Cross Country Insurance Club  
Web Site / Drive Out*

*4x4offroad@mweb.co.za  
(c) 082 603 8321  
(h) 012 658 5694  
(f) 086 684 9116  
www.4x4offroadclub.co.za*

*\*About This Newsletter\**

*Our Newsletters are only sent to people who have subscribed - if you have received this in error then please accept our apologies. If you no longer wish to receive our Newsletter, please feel free to unsubscribe by sending a BLANK email with REMOVE in the subject line*



**PIONEER PLASTICS**  
*Anything's Possible*  
WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS  
[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

The banner features a yellow background with various custom-moulded plastic products, including a blue cooler, a red cooler, a blue storage box, and a white storage box. A person is shown using a red cooler. The text is prominently displayed in blue and black.