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## Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there enthusiasts,

Well, here we are at the end of March, and the short month of April is upon us. Are you taking advantage of the Easter and May Day weekends, and getting the 11 days off for 3 days leave. Well we are. We have two tours running to two vastly different areas in South Africa.

One tour runs to the Northern Cape coastal area where we will be driving 2 concession 4x4 trails along the sea, and then head down the coast for some sightseeing and eat Fish & Chips in Hondeklipbaai. Then we head up to Port Nolloth and the Brandkaros area.

Another tour will be running down to the Passes of the Eastern Cape in the Rhodes area. Too bad the schools did not all decide to close, as the kids are expected to go to school. Well, guess what, we are going camping!

Talk about camping – I am looking for 1 or 2 vehicles to still join our Angola Tour in the June / July School Holidays. I am happy to offer this to newsletter readers, who are willing to follow a few club rules while out there (e.g. no drinking and driving). The tour will be led by Uri Adventures from Namibia, but is self catering and TOWING friendly. It's gonna be a blast. Send me an email if you are interested and I can get all the details too you.

Did you do the honourable thing at the beginning of the month in aid of the Cancer Shavathon. Yep, having shaved my head by mistake earlier this year, I simply just did it again. No sweat. As cancer creeps closer in your work and social sphere, it becomes a certain reality. Well, we did our bit. Did you?

Earth Hour also came and passed us. We need to start looking after the earth. While natural disasters like Japan just experienced, we all have a moral obligation to do our bit.. Yep, soon we will become a hiking club. What the emissions a problem you ask – NO, the ever increasing petrol price. This latest one is gonna klap us silly. But have 4x4, will travel.

OK, gonna keep it brief. Until next time.

***Yours in 4x4ing.***



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



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## 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
30 April 2011	Snake Course	Fourways Area
9-10 June 2011	First Aid Level 1	Centurion

### FIRST AID COURSE - LEVEL 1

**Training:** FIRST AID LEVEL 1

**Date:** Saturday 9 June 2011 – Sunday 10 June 2011 (Practical, Theory & Assessment)

**Time:** 08h00 – 17h00 on both days

**Area:** Centurion, Gauteng

**Venue:** TBA

**Grading:** Theory & Practical

**Target Activity:** The basic minimum course content as defined by the Department of Labour constitutes the following:

1. Principles of First Aid
2. Emergency Scene Management
3. Artificial Respiration - adult
4. One-Rescuer CPR - adult
5. Breathing / Asphyxia / Obstruction (Choking)
6. Wounds and Bleeding
7. Shock, Unconsciousness and Fainting
8. Fractures - bones
9. Burns
10. Head and Spinal Injuries
11. Dressings & Bandages

Tuition by certified trainer. Certificate issued.

**Bring:** Writing stuff...Good attitude...Sense of Humour.

**Cost:** The course costs are R675 incl. Light lunch on both days

**RSVP by:** 30 May 2011, but only the first 12 candidates will be accepted

**Payment by:** Full payment will be called for from successful candidates

### SNAKE COURSES

Next course dates are 30 April, 28 May, 25 June, 30 July, 27 August, 24 September, 29 October, and 26 November 2011.

I present snake courses for the general public, outdoors people, field guides, farmers, snake keepers, doctors, vets, mining companies, developers, etc. In short, anybody that may come in





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contact with snakes or snakebite will benefit from these courses. These courses were researched and compiled after a number of people had approached me for information on snakebite and the handling of snakes. I have been catching snakes since 1965 and **work professionally** with venomous snakes as I extract venom for antivenom production & keep about 500 snakes for this purpose.

My courses are **FGASA** (Field Guides Association of Southern Africa) approved as specialist courses. Those that pass will receive a certificate with the FGASA emblem on it. The Snake ID and Snakebite Treatment course is also registered with the **WITS CPD Office** and medical doctors that pass the test can claim 5 CPD points (Continued Professional Development).

The **Snake ID & Snakebite Treatment** course starts at 08h00 - 12h30. It covers the identification of the dangerous snake, the symptoms of snakebite, the first aid treatment, medical treatment and allergy recognition and treatment. There are 2 tea breaks and lunch is from 12h30 - 13h00, and from 13h00 - 14h00 everybody will be writing their test. Cost for this course is R925.00 VAT inclusive per person.

After this it is the **Venomous Snake Handling** course which starts at 14h00 with a lecture and concludes at 17h00. Testing is practical handling of puff adder, Mozambique spitting cobra, ringkals & savannah cobra under my supervision, and verbal questions and answers as we do handling. Cost for this course is R570.00 VAT inclusive per person. I also offer an additional **Black mamba handling** course for those people that may **have a need** to handle black mambas at Lodges in the Bushveld. This is done at an additional cost of R410.00 VAT inclusive per person, and runs from 17h15 to 18h30.

The next courses are scheduled for Saturday 29 January & 26 February 2011. I can also offer courses for interested groups or companies, and then the courses can be run during office hours at your premises & provided the group size is 15 people or more. Permits to transport snakes may have to be arranged beforehand. Keep this in mind. Past customers include Sasol, Anglo American, Anglo Coal, Anglo Gold Ashanti, BHP Billiton, Murray & Roberts, Johannesburg Water, Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market, Johannesburg Zoo and Eskom.

**Venue – This is the GPS coordinates: S 25° 56.726 minutes; E 28° 01.181 minutes.** African Reptiles and Venom is situated 8 km north from Fourways on the William Nicol extension, which becomes the R511. From the N1 (cement highway) take the William Nicol off ramp, and turn north away from Johannesburg. Pass Monte Casino on your right, pass the Fourways Mall on your left and go pass Indaba hotel on your left, cross 2 rivers the Jukskei river and the Diepsloot River. 900 meters after the second bridge, you will see a sign African Reptiles and Venom on your right hand. Turn in and park under the trees. The lectures are held in the lapa at the pool.

From Pretoria you will go towards Jo'burg and then take the R28/N14 towards Krugersdorp. Take the Hartebeespoort/Sandton off ramp. The off ramp makes a 180-degree bend. At the robot turn right towards Sandton. You will now be going pass the Diepsloot Township on your right. From the robot where you turned right, you will travel for about 4 km. Look out for the sign on your left that reads "African Reptiles and Venom". Turn in and park under the trees.

### Snake Handling Equipment





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I supply the 90 cm standard Pillstrom tong. Price inclusive of Vat is R1575.00. Also available are a 110 cm snake hook @ R400.00, and 140 cm snake hook @ R550.00 Vat inclusive. Snakebite resistant gloves are R3995.70 a pair. For courier delivery in SA add R342.

To secure your place for a course on a particular date please contact me to enquire if there is place and then make the payment into the account (details will be provided)

AFRICAN REPTILES AND VENOM

Mike Perry

083 44 888 54 (cell)

0866973304 (fax)

[mike@africanreptiles-venom.co.za](mailto:mike@africanreptiles-venom.co.za)

## **Roads to Roam Adventure Holidays**

### **TOO BUSY TO PLAN YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY?**

December holidays are over and Easter holidays have arrived. Well, not quite yet... but if you have not yet sat down and made some reservations, you may have left it a little too late.... The problem is, you've vaguely had a thought about making some reservations, but never sat down to do it... and now it is a matter of urgency...

**Roads to Roam** will plan your holiday for you and take the worry of planning your holiday and making the reservations, off your hands. So what do you have to do? Contact us via email or give us a call, and we will do the rest.

#### **So what does "the rest" include?**

- We suggest and advise on great destinations for your holiday
- We do the route planning and provide directions to reach your destination
- We provide points of interest to visit along your route and suggests lunch stops and overnight accommodation *en route*
- We do all the reservations and all the payments to the various establishments
- We suggest day outings and interesting places to visit in the area
- We combine all of these in a convenient, easy to use booklet – the only document you will need for your holiday. No more paperwork all over the car!

#### **And what do you have to do?**

- Contact us and provide some details...
- Let us do the work ...
- Do one payment to us...

And you are ready to go on holiday!

#### **Where do we operate?**

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- Africa is our passion – we have extensive knowledge on travelling in Southern Africa, including South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, etc.

#### What does it cost?

- Usually, we receive commission from the establishments where you stay – and you do not pay anything extra
- Some establishments do not pay commission to agents – and on these reservations there is an additional cost of 10%
- Unfortunately, there are usually no discounted rates to agents on camping – so these reservation carry the additional 10%
- Should the commission we receive be less than R550.00, we will not charge commission but a flat rate of R550.00
- Should you wish to cross the border, there are additional banking fees to be paid for money transfers to other countries

#### Contact us:

- Email: [info@roadstoroam.co.za](mailto:info@roadstoroam.co.za)
- Cell: +27 83 22 631 22

January 2011

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

### **NEED A MECHANICALSERVICE IN CENTURION (MITSUBISHI & TOYOTA OWNERS!!!)**

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

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

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

### **HOW NEW PROTECTION ACT AFFECTS YOU**

March 24 201 - By Denis Droppa

From April 1 you'll be able to walk into a car or motorcycle dealership and play God, watching as salesmen visibly wither under the oppressive glare of the new Consumer Protection Act. With the prospect of paying fines up to R1 million or ten percent of their turnover if found guilty of violating your consumer rights, motor companies will literally fall at your feet to deliver excellent customer service.

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Well, at least that's the rather larger-than-life expectation created. What's true is that this is important legislation and the consumer has been handed a big stick with which to keep suppliers in check.

Before this act there were several pieces of consumer legislation but they were all fragmented in various sub-clauses. Now it's all been collated into a single document in language that you and I can (more or less) understand without getting an expensive lawyer to decipher it. Its full name is the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008 and if you wish to pore through all 94 pages you can download it from the following website link: [www.info.gov.za/view/DownloadFileAction?id=99961](http://www.info.gov.za/view/DownloadFileAction?id=99961)

There are a few important new laws that you should be aware of and which really will make a difference in motorists' lives:

- Direct marketing will no longer be allowed, so you won't be harassed by emails, phone calls or sms messages advertising "great new deals you'd be crazy not to take advantage of".
- Product bundling will be banned, so you won't be forced to buy unwanted accessories just because a dealer wants to get rid of slow-moving stock.
- Buyer-seller contracts have to be in plain and understandable language, without all the Latin and legal-speak.
- The fact that grey or parallel imports aren't supported by the official importer/distributor must now be clearly communicated by signage on the shop floor. It will be much like putting a "smoking is hazardous" sticker on a cigarette pack.
- Right of return. This part of the act has caused most of the excitement, but it doesn't necessarily mean people will have a licence to willy-nilly return vehicles or parts after a sudden attack of buyer's remorse. There are clear cut rules governing what you can return:
  - The vehicle, part, or accessory can be returned due to material defect, failure or hazard - as long as you haven't altered the product yourself.

If you bought a product due to direct marketing (in other words a transaction that wasn't initiated by you), there is a cool-off period of five business days in which you can return it.

If you feel you didn't have enough time to examine the product there's a ten-day return period. However, in the latter two cases you will have to pay the cost of restocking the product.

Manufacturers will now be forced to notify customers of a recall. But recall doesn't mean that a whole car has to be replaced because of, for instance, a faulty washer.

A big change is that suppliers will be liable for damage caused by unsafe or defective vehicles or parts whether or not the harm resulted from their negligence. Most people can't afford to sue large businesses, but with the CPA you no longer have to prove negligence on the part of the supplier. Rather, the shoe's now on the other foot: where a consumer claims for damages, the producer, importer, distributor or retailer will have to prove that they aren't responsible for the resulting damages.





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As before, you will have redress to higher authorities if you have a complaint that hasn't been resolved to your satisfaction by the motor company, except that some of those authorities now have a lot more authority.

The Motor Industry Ombudsman is given more teeth by the CPA, and in future parties will be legally bound to abide by his rulings (at the moment this is voluntary), and will apply to any motor firm or supplier - big or small - not just the major motor companies currently contracted to the Ombudsman.

This all gives motor dealers much more incentive to resolve customer complaints quickly, rather than let them escalate to the Ombudsman or other dispute-resolving bodies such as the National Consumer Commission or Consumer Tribunal.

Brandon Cohen, Compliance Manager for Associated Motor Holdings, offers a good summary of the implications of the CPA: "If they're selling junk or their customer service is bad, companies are going to get hurt, but companies that follow sound business principles and standards, offer quality products and maintain good customer relations should welcome the new legislation". -Star Motoring.

### **SWAZI REG RAID POSTPONED**

Dear all.

As a result of the extremely wet season in Swaziland it has been decided to move the Reg Raid to June, the weekend of the 17th. As some of you would remember we had to cancel the 1st day last year.

Jeanne is currently battling to swim across most of the rivers, however he has managed to already find some new rout that has not been used before. Will keep you update.

Gert & Team - 083 740 5714

### **GOOD NEWS IN CROSSING TO MOZ**

Dear Friends, Colleagues and associates,

Very good news that came out of an "on site" visit of SARS to Lebombo Border, support was that South African Travellers with South African Registered motor vehicles, no longer needed to complete the DA65 form, (vehicle re-importation document) since the relevant information will be captured from the gate pass and information would be stored in the system, hence making the time at the customs desk quicker over time for regular travellers across the border.

It was further more agreed that blank DA331 forms could be kept at clearing agents offices, in order for passengers who need to declare anything to customs, to be able to pre-prepare document and to further decrease the time spent at the border post.

**Tony Ferreira**





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**WANTED - ZIM 4X4 2011 CASTROL JAMBOREE DRIVERS**

Have you got a 4x4? Why not enter the Zimbabwe HP LUBES CASTROL 4X4 JAMBOREE

Vehicle classes include :  
LWB Standard  
SWB Standard  
Standard Modified  
Specials

Dates : 28th & 29th May - 8am to 5pm at Donnybrook Park 4x4 Site Camping available at site. Bring the whole family.

Rules, Regs and other details available from Mass KIRK on [kirk@afriglobal.com](mailto:kirk@afriglobal.com) Email Mass your intention to compete as soon as possible. Other accommodation available can also be arranged if you wish. Let us show you how we have good, dirty fun.

Other details available on our website [www.4x4.co.zw](http://www.4x4.co.zw) and our facebook group 4x4 Club Zimbabwe.

Tim Thorburn  
4x4 Club Chairman  
+263 772 645518

**WATCH FOR UNREST IN SWAZILAND**

To our partners in travel.

We received a few inquiries from tour operators for extra nights' accommodation after the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. These are from groups that should be passing through Swaziland either from or to the Kruger National Park. There is a chance that unrest may occur from the 12<sup>th</sup> of April in Swaziland and they are concerned about the impact, delays and safety on their tours.

If you may need an extra night of accommodation please contact us immediately to check availability and do the necessary alterations on your booking. For more information please visit:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110226/wl\\_africa\\_afp/swazilandpoliticsunresttunisiaegypt\\_20110226100047](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110226/wl_africa_afp/swazilandpoliticsunresttunisiaegypt_20110226100047)

[http://groups.google.com/group/sa-swaziland-solidarity-eom-forum/browse\\_thread/thread/f108c7e33c796589?pli=1](http://groups.google.com/group/sa-swaziland-solidarity-eom-forum/browse_thread/thread/f108c7e33c796589?pli=1)

For more information please Google, Swaziland unrest 12 April 2011.

**WHAT IS HAPPENING ABOUT OFFROAD DRIVING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOW???????**

The off-road industry in South Africa, represented by the National Off-road Workgroup (NOW), and the government are working together to address the long term sustainability of the off-road sector through the development of a co-regulatory framework. Part of the strategy (Strategy towards the co-regulation of the National Off-Road Sector in South Africa, 2008), which was approved by government in 2009, is the drafting and implementation of national norms and/or standards for the recreational use of off-road vehicles in sensitive inland areas.

Anchor Environmental Consultants (Anchor) has recently been appointed to draft the national norms and/or standards for the recreational use of off-road vehicles in sensitive inland areas.





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Please find the attached information document for more detail on the project and key dates for stakeholder involvement.

Any stakeholders interested in engaging in this process are encouraged to register by sending an email to [info@anchorenvironmental.co.za](mailto:info@anchorenvironmental.co.za) or by registering with one of the National Off-Road Associations listed in the background information document. Alternatively Anchor can be contacted at 021 701 3420 during office hours. This message can be distributed to anyone else who may not be on the mailing list but who may have an interest in this project. We thank you for your interest and look forward to engaging with you on this matter.

If you want the PDF Information Document, please email [capesignworx@mweb.co.za](mailto:capesignworx@mweb.co.za)

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#### **COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON E-TOLLING**

Minister of transport Sibusiso Ndebele says there is a perception that consultation on the proposed e-tolling tariffs had been inadequate. Picture: Neil Baynes. The special steering committee to address concerns around the proposed e-tolling in Gauteng will be chaired by transport department director general George Mahlalela and will report by the end of April.

Announcing the "government-side" of the steering committee on Tuesday, transport minister Sibusiso Ndebele said it included Kgaugeto Lekgoro of the premier's office, Gauteng transport department head Benny Monama, and SA National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral) CEO Nazir Ali.

"We plan to include as part of the steering committee organised business, organised labour, commuter organisations and other government structures and civil society institutions," he said. It was intended to complete the committee's constitution by March 20, so those organisations now had 10 days to finalise their names.

The committee was expected to report on the matter by the end of April, but Ndebele did not exclude extending the deadline. Although extensive consultation had already taken place, there was a perception that consultation on the tariffs had been inadequate.

"It is now my responsibility as minister of transport to address all the current concerns relating to this issue," he said. - Sapa

#### **NEW 4x4ers BOOK**

I have been compiling a book on **4x4 Routes of Southern Africa**, in conjunction with some of South Africa's top offroad guides This has taken much of my time since September last year. The book will comprise 20 chapters, each featuring amazing offroad holidays, which can either be driven alone, but in order to get the full benefit, we suggest you contact each author to enquire about their tours and prices. The contributing authors, all recognised experts on their specific





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routes, are Jurgens Schoeman (Live the Journey), Andre van Vuuren (Explore Africa), Dave van Graan (Masazane Expeditions), Simon Steadman (Mafunyane Adventures), Johann du Toit (African Expeditions), Hugo Potgieter (Mozambique 4x4 Safaris), Greg van der Reis and Andrew Brown (Offroad Adventure Club, Cape), Johan Snyman (expert on Kaokoland) and of course, yours truly (maybe not an expert, but a passionate enthusiast, nonetheless!)

The full colour, A4 sized finished product will feature many great photographs, a map of each route and snippets of the history, culture, wildlife and other points of interest along the way. A convenient CD of all routes is included as an added bonus!

This magnum opus is to be published by Map Studio and is scheduled to hit the shelves around the middle of the year. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed compiling it.

**4x4 Routes of Southern Africa** is an unashamed attempt to **promote offroad tourism** and to get all those pavement 4x4's onto the gravel at least once during their lifespan! (In the same vein, I have attached a PDF promoting a great new and informative website called Karoo Places, which should entice offroading folk out into the rural areas of the Karoo.)

Anyone wishing to pre-order a copy, just pop me an email! [capesignworx@mweb.co.za](mailto:capesignworx@mweb.co.za)

#### **HIGH RAINFALL BRINGS ZAMBEZI RIVER FLOODS AGAIN THIS YEAR**

With Kariba Dam's floodgates opened unusually early this year, the waters of the Zambezi River downstream were flowing even higher, during February than they did in 2010. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that the Zambezi River Authority opened a fourth floodgate, releasing a very large amount of water in order to allow for two weeks' dam wall maintenance at the end of February.

In such a situation, as the waters rise, people living on the river edges are fore-warned and advised to shore up their property against damage from flooding. Despite this, many buildings on both sides of the river suffer inundation. However, wild animals like buffalo and waterbuck which graze on mid-stream islands have no such advantage. They are in grave danger of being swept away or starving as their food source is submerged and they cannot swim the fast-flowing water to safety on the mainland. This was a problem during last year's floods, when conservation organisations on both sides of the Zambezi River appealed for help from the public and boated food and hay to save stranded and weakened animals on the islands.

This year, however, staff from [Mana Pools National Park](#), assisted by [The Zambezi Society](#), moved early to avoid the animal rescue crisis that occurred last year. Before the highest floods occurred, the Society donated emergency fuel supplies with which the Parks staff deployed their patrol boat up and down the river to check for stranded animals, among them this group of buffalo (above left) photographed by Parks Ecologist Philip Madawo. The officers then succeeded in chasing most of the animals off the islands to safety on the mainland before the current became too fast and while they still had the strength to swim.

No sooner had their mission succeeded, than Kariba's fourth floodgate was opened and the Zambezi rose higher than it has for years. The main campground and some lodge and staff facilities on the banks of the river at Mana Pools were underwater, with personnel evacuated to higher ground, and visitors forced to change their plans. A recent photograph (above



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middle) taken by Ken Jenkins shows the normally 3-metre-high banks at the mouth of the Mana River, a well-known fishing and sundowner spot for visitors, completely submerged. For comparison, see the picture of the same spot taken in August last year (above right)!

The heavy rains in the upper Zambezi catchment area which necessitated unusually early spillage of the dam this year, are continuing to fill Lake Kariba very fast. Once maintenance on the dam is complete, the floodgates will be re-opened and the waters of the Zambezi River are likely to remain at high levels for several months this year. However, by May/June, as the inflows subside, the dam floodgates will be closed and tourism facilities downstream should return to normal for the 2011 safari season.

Visit us at [www.wildzambezi.com](http://www.wildzambezi.com)

### **LAND ROVERS TO BE BUILT IN INDIA**

March 2 2011 at 10:38am

Production of the Freelander in India is to start within weeks at Tata's factory at Pune. Jaguar Land Rover is to start building 2000 vehicles a year in India. The company announced on Tuesday it would start overseas production with the Land Rover Freelander 4x4, but Indian bosses made clear that other Land Rover and Jaguar models were set to follow.

The luxury and sports car company is now owned by giant Indian industrial conglomerate Tata, which also owns Corus Steel and Tetley tea. But Jaguar Land Rover is rapidly becoming the "jewel in the crown" of the company, which bought the automaker for more than £1 billion (R11.3 billion) and is spending as much again each year on investment in it.

Production of the Freelander in India is to start within weeks at Tata's factory at Pune, about a four-hour drive from Mumbai in the west of the country. Parts produced at Jaguar Land Rover's factory at Halewood on Merseyside will be shipped to the subcontinent in "knocked down" form and assembled by an Indian workforce.

But company bosses stressed that the decision to build in India was a sign of expansion, not an attempt to export jobs to India to exploit cheaper labour. - Daily Mail

### **LAAT WIEL NA DIE WINDPOMP FEES – WINDPOMP 4x4 SAFARI**

Ek het die klub se besonderhede op die internet gekry. U het seker al gehoor van die Windpompfees wat jaarliks in Naboomspruit gehou word. Hierdie jaar van 16 TOT 18 Junie 2011 is dit weer sulke tyd en hierdie jaar bied ons ook die Windpompfees 4X4 Safari aan.

Vind aangeheg al die informasie wat u mag nodig kry ivm die safari en ons nooi u hartlik uit om dit met ons te kom deel:

[http://www.naboomwindpompfees.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=83&Itemid=98](http://www.naboomwindpompfees.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83&Itemid=98)

Ons hoop om binnekort van u te hoor.

Vriendelike Groete

Koördineerder – 4x4: Lukas Rautenbach

Sel: 083 254 7127





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Windpompfees Kantoor  
Tel: 014 743 3137  
Faks: 086 695 1806  
Sel: 076 533 4513  
[windpompfees@gmail.com](mailto:windpompfees@gmail.com)

### **BREAKTHROUGH IN CHEETAH RESEARCH**

The results of new collaborative research carried out by the National Zoological Gardens (NZG) in Pretoria on cheetah populations in Africa and Asia point to a complete re-think of the approach to ensuring the survival of the big cats.

The five-year project was carried out by the NZG under the leadership of Prof Antoinette Kotze in conjunction with researchers from the University of Vienna, the French National Research Centre and the Portuguese Science Foundation. The aim was to confirm whether the cheetah as a species maintained a low level of genetic variation as has been the assumption up to now, and whether in fact, the differences between cheetah sub-species were much deeper.

The results have revealed that not only are African cheetahs from various regions distinct from one another, but also, more importantly, the Asiatic cheetah found in Iran is a distinct sub-species from the African variety. As it is believed that only around 110 Asiatic cheetahs survive, urgent steps need to be taken to prevent the extinction of the species.

According to Prof Kotze, the research project was a long and arduous process, mining data from the NZG's National Genetic Database for cheetah and gathering DNA samples of living animals in the wild as well as zoo and museum specimens in Southern Africa, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Great Britain, Germany, France and Belgium.

"Gathering information from zoo specimens was relatively easy as much of the information relating to origin was available from the International Species Information System (ISIS). On the other hand, the DNA investigation was a complex process. Samples of blood, hair, bone, skin and faeces of 95 different animals were taken and the DNA extracted. This required the use of sophisticated technology to analyse, among other things, the mitochondrial DNA."

### **Startling discovery**

Says Prof Kotze, "One of the most startling discoveries we made was that, contrary to conventional wisdom which maintains that cheetahs are generally in-bred, they are far more diverse as a species than originally thought, with the African and Asian species splitting between 32 000 and 67 000 years ago and the African species splitting further around 16 000 to 72 000 years ago. As a result, we need to completely re-think our approach to cheetah conservation worldwide.

"The Iranian cheetah is on the brink of extinction with an estimated 110 remaining. Therefore conventional cheetah conservation methods need to be abandoned and extreme measures taken if this species is to be saved. Already the Iranian government has renewed its commitment to a major conservation effort and the next few years are critical."



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Professor Kotze is the Manager for Research and Scientific Services at the NZG and is currently working on a number of genetic research projects including a study on black and white rhinos and the ground hornbill.

### **VOETSPORE TEAM CHANGE ALLEGIANCE!!!**

There have been a few changes at Voetspore, and it is time to inform you about them.

We have decided to move from LA Sport to 4x4 Megaworld. Over the years we had an excellent relationship with LA Sport, but the vehicles that we plan to use on the next Voetspore adventure are only built by 4x4 Megaworld. Furthermore Deon Venter, CEO 4x4 Megaworld and I got along just fine, right from the outset. It is clear that their shops are lifestyle shops, and that is exactly what Voetspore represents. Our products, books, DVD's, clothing etc., will be available at 4x4 Megaworld.

We are looking forward to a long and happy relationship with Deon and his team at 4x4 Megaworld, and hope to visit as many of their shops as possible in the coming months. It already started with the past weekends Beeld Holiday Show at Gallagher Estate.

### **THE EWTALK AND DINNER AT COUNTRY CLUB JOHANNESBURG (AUCKLAND PARK)** ***Life Lessons from Wildlife, A Natural history filmmakers' humbling experiences in the wild*** ***By Rob Waldron***

Taking an average of two years to complete, each wildlife film is a tribute to the animals and conservationists that work with them daily. Working closely with specialist scientists and conservationists such as Dr.Gus Mills, Dr. Paul Funston, Dr Ian Player, Dr. Ian Whyte, and Prof Antoinette Kotze, the films emerge with good science pointing the way to the future. Yet it is the animals themselves which surprise always, with their daily lessons on life.

Join EWT and Rob Waldron for a deeper look into the exciting world of creating wildlife documentaries in Southern Africa.

Robert Waldron has produced wildlife films for National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel and Animal Planet, amongst other broadcasters nationwide. His films have won a number of awards at the International Wildlife Film Festival in the USA; the Director's Prize in Italy and the Best Film on Wildlife at the IUCN.

These films have given him the privilege of observing wildlife in action, over many years, and in particular endangered species across the world, from the far reaches of Southern Africa to the wild areas of North America.

Apart from producing and screenwriting, Robert has recently published his first novel 'Walk in the Cool' dealing with the marginalisation of the San people of the Kalahari. Robert owns the film production company Wild Dog Productions, with branches in South Africa and Gaborone, Botswana.

We look forward to seeing you there! Please note the price changes for 2011

Non-members – R75 per talk

Members – R50 for talk





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Dinner – R115

Please note: Dinner reservations need to be booked and paid for by 4pm Monday 11 April.

Country Club Johannesburg, 1 Napier Road, Auckland Park

Tuesday 12 April 2011

18h30 for 19h00

RSVP to [nicolav@ewt.org.za](mailto:nicolav@ewt.org.za) or Nicola Vogel on 011 486 1102

CCJ Members to please RSVP to Cathy Robertson on 011 710 6462 or [cathyr@ccj.co.za](mailto:cathyr@ccj.co.za)

### **MERC G-WAGON IS BACK**

March 4 2011 at 03:32pm

Some say lots is good, more is better and too much is just about right. For them there is the G55 AMG, propelled by a 5.5-litre turbocharged V8. When it comes to serious bundu-bashers, they don't come tougher than the Mercedes-Benz G-Class, the unstoppable Gelandewagen.

For 30 years Stuttgart's answer to the Land Rover Defender has been flattening the world, out-toughing the toughest working environments, taking adventurers to the ends of the earth and, more importantly, bringing them back again.

Problem is, for a number of years it hasn't been coming at all - to South Africa, that is. But now Mercedes-Benz is re-introducing the G-Wagen to the SA market with a range of three models, from a rough-and-tough workhorse to a clean, green eco-warrior to an out-and-out charger with AMG badging.

The base model is the G300 CDI Professional, built on the 461 platform and aimed at commercial customers who need a durable, tough off-roader. The interior trim, Mercedes admits, is a bit basic, but that allows for easy conversion to commercial applications such as game-drive vehicles, ski-boat towing and launching, and emergency response vehicles.

This is how Stuttgart answers the Land Rover Defender, the unstoppable G300 CDI Gelandewagen - and now it is back in South Africa. But it's also well-suited to the serious off-roader and the family that likes to play dirty, taking them and their playtoys down the road not travelled at all to where the real fun is.

Motivation is supplied by a 2987cc V6 turbodiesel for which Mercedes claims a conservative 135kW at 3800rpm and a seriously muscular 400Nm from 1600-2600rpm, at a cost of 11.7 litres/100km and 307 g/km of CO2. That gets laid down through a five-speed, automatic transmission and permanent four-wheel drive with low range (electrically selectable on the move, hooray!) and three electrically lockable differentials (transfer case and both axles).

It has no less than three 60ah batteries to power the vehicle systems as well as 12V and 24V sockets on the centre console. ABS and EBD are standard, as are automatic daytime running lights and front fog lights. The G300 is trimmed in black vinyl with black checked fabric upholstery and available either as a four-seater with individual rear seats or a five-seater with rear bench.

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The G55 AMG has all the bells and whistles you could ask for and at least a couple of trees worth of burr walnut trim. A basic aircon is standard, as are wiring for a sound system, lockable storage and 16" steel rims with 225/75 all-terrain rubber.

The eco-warrior is the G350 BlueTec - based on the 463 platform - with the same three-litre V6 turbo-diesel, but in this case tuned for 155kW at 3400rpm and 540Nm from 1600-2400rpm. Fuel consumption is rated at 11.2 litres/100km and CO2 emissions at 297g/km - but the BlueTec insists on 50ppm "clean diesel".

It drives the same transfer case and three locking differentials as its more basic sibling, but through a 7G-Tronic auto 'box, and runs on 18" alloys shod with 265/60 hiking boots. The interior is trimmed in black leather - with power adjustment on the heatable front seats - and standard kit includes surround sound, auto aircon, central locking, cup holders, luggage compartment cover, rear parking sensor, Cruise control, leather-trimmed multifunction steering wheel, bi-xenon headlights with washers and stability control.

Some say lots is good, more is better and too much is just about right. For them there's the G55 AMG, with all the luxury of the G350 and at least a couple of trees' worth of burr walnut trim - but propelled by a 5.5-litre turbocharged V8. The big numbers are 373kW at 6100rpm and 700Nm from 2750-4000rpm, the small numbers are 0-100 in 5.5sec and 210km/h, and the expensive numbers are 15.9 litres/100km and 378g/km of CO2.

Permanent all-wheel drive is standard, as are low range and three locking differentials. The G55 AMG also comes with a sunroof, stainless steel running boards and spare-wheel cover and multi-contour seats with "Designo" leather upholstery.

#### PRICES:

G300 CDI Professional - R773 990

G350 BlueTec - R1 227 140

G55 AMG - R1 840 060

Prices include emissions tax and a service plan for the G300, MobiloDrive 120 for the G350 and G55.

#### VROU SE 4x4 ROL BY WAL AF, TREF BOOM

Louise Ferreira (beeld)

'n 37-jarige vrou is ernstig beseer toe haar viertrekevoertuig op 'n 4x4-roete 300 m ver by 'n wal afgerol en 'n boom getref het. Die ongeluk het eergistermiddag by die Bosvark 4x4 Adventure Park by Noordheuwel aan die Wes-Rand gebeur. Volgens mnr. Jeffrey Wicks, Netcare 911-woordvoerder, het die vrou met haar voertuig op 'n veldroete gery toe sy vermoedelik beheer oor die voertuig verloor het.

"Die voertuig het omgeslaan, teen die steil wal afgerol en 'n boom getref "Die bestuurder is uit die motor geslinger toe dit deur die lug getrek het. Sy is byna 75 m van die verfrommelde voertuig gevind." Volgens Wicks het die vrou ernstige kop- en borsbeserings opgedoen. Paramedici het haar op die toneel behandel, waarna sy per helikopter na die Milpark-hospitaal in Johannesburg geneem is. Haar toestand is ernstig, maar stabiel.

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Wicks het gesê die oorsaak van die ongeluk is nog onbekend en word deur die polisie ondersoek. Hy het toegegee dat Vrydag se swaar reën moontlik daartoe bygedra het, maar kan dit nie beslis daaraan koppel nie.

Dit is onbekend of die vrou 'n sitplekgordel gedra het. Mnr. Jan Killian, die eienaar van Bosvark, wou nie verdere inligting verstrek nie, behalwe om te sê dat dit nie eergister daar gereën het nie. "Daar was geen nalatigheid nie, dit kan ek jou sê. Dit was net 'n ongeluk."

Volgens mnr. Alan Goodway, die eienaar van die 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club in Gauteng, beïnvloed verskeie faktore die veiligheid van 'n roete. "Dis heeltemal gegrond op die vaardigheid van die bestuurder, die vaardigheid van die voertuig, die toestand op die grond, die toestand van die bande en die banddruk.

"Jy moet jou gesonde verstand gebruik. 'n Mens sou aanneem as die vrou besluit het om te gaan ry, sou sy al die nodige voorsorgmaatreëls nagekom het, soos om uit die voertuig te klim en die hindernisse te inspekteer.

"Daar is altyd die moontlikheid dat iets kan skeefloop. 'n Band kan bars of loskom van die velling."

### **EXCLUSIVE SELF-DRIVES WITH 'NAVIGATORS TOURS & SAFARIS'**

Are you looking for a unique and exclusive self-drive adventure? An experience where the emphasis is on quiet enjoyment of the wilderness in the company of like-minded people? Then a Navigators tour is for you, because we specialise in personally-guided small-group tours and safaris to remote destinations in Southern Africa.

Each tour is taken by Chris Schlimper, the owner and founder of Navigators Tours and Safaris. This means that you benefit from having an experienced, knowledgeable and professional tour leader and guide who is dedicated to service and personal attention for all guests; someone who is passionate about offering quality tours to some of Africa's unique and special destinations.

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

#### **Choose from our scheduled departures:**

**Kaokoveld : Desert Elephants & Himba (14 nights)**  
**Tour Dates: 23 May – 6 June 2011**

**Zambia : Explorer Tour (19 nights)**  
**Tour Dates: 11 - 30 July 2011**





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**Khaidum & Caprivi : Remote Namibia (11 nights)**  
**Tour Dates: 12 – 23 September 2011**

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*

### **SAFARI CENTRE HAS A NEW TOUR GUIDE**

We are hard at work finalizing our very exciting tour program for 2011, and we will contact you very soon with the relevant information. This year will see a few changes in the Safari Centre tours and amongst others will be headed up by a new addition to the Safari Centre stable, Riaan Jooste.

He is a very competent and experienced tour guide and leader, and customary to Safari Centre tradition, he will make sure that your every need gets attended to whilst on safari in the wild. On all the camping tours, the food will be prepared by Riaan – an outstanding cook - and the Safari Centre team, which promises to be of exceptional quality.

Kindly contact us at any stage should you have more specific questions, or if you wish to book for your preferred tour. Due to the high demand for our safaris, places are filling up rapidly, so without further delay contact us to secure that spot.

Kind Regards,  
The Safari Centre Team  
[safari@safaricentre.co.za](mailto:safari@safaricentre.co.za)  
**Riaan Jooste**  
**073 486 3633**

### **AAWDC CHARITY RUN FOR SA RED CROSS – 5 JUNE 2011.**

The AAWDC (Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs) of Southern Africa will hold its first national Charity Run on 5 June 2011, organized by the Nissan 4x4 Club of South Africa. The aim is for anyone wanting to donate new (or slightly used) blankets, clothes, bedding, as well as non perishable food stuffs, educational toys, to less fortunate people, are welcome to do so, near most main towns in South Africa.

We are requesting your help regards arranging donations of the following:

- 1) Regional collection centres, to ensure that donations can be easily dropped off,
- 2) Various fun activities sited at each venue, with a percentage of ticket prices being donated to the Red Cross (use the attached document to begin discussions with suppliers),
- 3) Parking for approx 500 vehicles, vehicle security by volunteers,
- 4) Parking and loading facilities for large trucks to receive the donations,





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- 5) Email distribution, to your members and regional supporters, of the invitation, other information to be sent,
- 6) Printing facilities for 1000 x A4 flyers, 500 x A4 stickers for placement onto vehicles rear windows,
- 7) No alcohol allowed.

Donations will later be transported from the collection venues by sponsor's vehicles, to the nominated regional Red Cross charity points, where the donations will immediately be handed to recipients. 4x4, and other clubs, may be asked to help with transport and distribution of the donations, under the administration of the Red Cross, especially for those 'hard to reach' areas.

**When:** 5 June 2011.

**Time:** 10h00 to 15h00.

**Where:** Central venues (e.g. race tracks, stadiums) close to the following towns: Nelspruit, Polokwane, Pietermaritzburg, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Upington. Venues around these towns will be advised soonest. Large, open spaces, with lots of parking for many vehicles, needs to be arranged. The Johannesburg and Pretoria areas to be organised by the Nissan 4x4 club.

**What:** Blankets, clothes, bedding, non perishable and tinned foods, educational toys, etc – anything that will help sustain people in the cold of winter, and bring some cheer to less fortunate people.

**How:** People wishing to donate, should bring their donations to the nearest central venue, where they can offload these, for loading into sponsor's trucks, or AAWDC affiliated club 4x4s for distribution.

Please help market the event, and the day, through your organisation, by including this, and future, letters / notices to your email distribution lists. Volunteers and sponsors, nationally and regionally, to assist with various aspects of the event, will be much appreciated, and should contact the Nissan 4x4 club on:

082-8022890 / 083-2765149 / 082-9235682 / 083-4190010 who will gladly use the help offered.

The AAWDC actively promotes the responsible use of 4x4 vehicles, and 4x4 driver training, as well as liaises with government to avoid further bannings of 4x4 driving. It is managing the introduction of the DCC (Driver Competency Certificate), required by 4x4 drivers from mid 2011 for visiting eco-sensitive areas.

Contact the AAWDC on [www.aawdc.co.za](http://www.aawdc.co.za) for more information.

Sincerely

Vaughn Ashford - Cell: 082 8022 890

Email: [vaughn.ashford@khs.co.za](mailto:vaughn.ashford@khs.co.za)

Nissan 4x4 Club – Events Co-Ordinator

Nico Pienaar

Email: [nico@aspasa.co.za](mailto:nico@aspasa.co.za)

Nissan 4x4 Club – Chairperson





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## NATURE CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY, TOURISM AND OUTDOOR EXPO 2011

### **Introduction**

The African Boma exhibition offers you the **largest real outdoor exhibition** in Africa. You surely do not want to **miss out** on an opportunity to present your product from nature to outdoor lovers. Be part of this **active** show/exhibition at the **Pretoria National Botanical Garden** on the weekend of 3rd to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

This event is the show-case of **nature conservation, tourism** and **outdoor living** with the focus on **biodiversity** in Africa and it will be the third time that it takes place. From 2012 this eco expo will also take place in other large cities in SA (including Cape Town, Johannesburg and Nelspruit). After visiting various shows and exhibitions and discussing the problems encountered at these by various exhibitors, we came to the conclusion that the public and the market need a **new** and **fresh approach**. Thus it was decided to present **more events during this exhibition** where the visitors can **participate** in and to keep them **occupied** and **interested** during the whole day of their visit. The visitor must feel that he/she got **value for money** paid and must feel that they want to attend again the next year.

The theme focus of this exhibition will be **nature conservation (wise and sustainable utilization of natural resources)**. The **draw-card** for most international tourists to Africa is the **untamed wildlife, natural wonders** and **cultural diversity**. The **domestic tourism market** is also increasingly making use of wildlife destinations. If we lose the wildlife we will also lose this huge source of income (more than gold production). As we all know, the government is clamping down on the abuse of our natural resources (the beach driving ban etc.) and it is up to us to prove that we are not all abusers of nature and therefore are willing to **educate the public** in the wise use of the available resources. With the current problem of rhino poaching the public need to be made more aware of the problems encountered by the brave ladies and gentleman involved in this fight.

On Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> June the S.A.Hiking Federation gave permission for a **fun walk** to be held, this walk will get a lot of publicity

African Boma supports the **Nature Conservation Africa Foundation (NCA)** in **creating public awareness** in the **sustainable and wise utilization** of our natural resources and to provide funds for the fight against the evil of poaching. The idea behind this foundation is to provide the people in the field with the necessary equipment to do their job properly.

The **boma** concept was decided on, as traditionally, a boma is a place of gathering in the African bush. Create the atmosphere of a **bush camp** to your liking and style in your own boma. Outdoor stalls are also available to suit your product and or image. Just image your unique range under the African sky!

### **What to expect**

The exhibition will be held from **3 to 5 June 2011** at the **PRETORIA NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN AND NATURE RESERVE**. This venue is ideally situated next to the major routes between Pretoria and Johannesburg, and offers the **unique** bush surroundings in the city. This event will take place in all the Botanical Gardens in the future with **8 events** in **2012**.

- The domestic **wildlife industry** in all its forms will also be accommodated. This will include game capture and ancillary industries for the international as well as domestic





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tourism and users of these facilities as a lot of **private game farms** are aiming at the **eco-tourism** market.

- Some of the events planned during the show: **snake and other animal displays**.

This exhibition is mainly focused to attract the **A&B** income groups as the **preferred** market segment, although the C&D income groups will not be neglected. These latter groups cover a larger market segment, thus **advertising** for the exhibition will be done to cover all four market segments.

### Marketing

African Boma is currently, busy negotiating **media coverage** with various outdoor magazines. This will ensure **extensive coverage** running up to and after the exhibition. This exhibition has already received quite **a lot of media coverage** in various **local newspapers**, in **RAPPORT** and on **RSG**. With this and the ambiance of the **bush** surroundings, you can be ensured that your products and services will get **maximum exposure** with the buying public.

You are invited to discuss the booking of a stall. For an **appointment** to view the site and to determine the suitability of the area for your purposes contact **Ben Grobler at 0826888829**.

Do not delay, act now and become part of this **prestigious event**.

Ben Grobler - 0826888829

[ben@africanboma.co.za](mailto:ben@africanboma.co.za) / [www.africanboma.co.za](http://www.africanboma.co.za)

**AFRICAN BOMA (Pty) Ltd**

### QUAKE MAY AFFECT SA CAR IMPORTS

March 16 2011

The South African subsidiaries of Japanese car makers Toyota, Nissan, Suzuki and Honda are urgently assessing the impact of Friday's earthquake and tsunami on operations. These manufacturers are reliant on Japan for some fully built up vehicle models imported to South Africa.

Any shortage of component supplies from Japan to domestic vehicle manufacturers Toyota South Africa Motors and Nissan South Africa, could also potentially disrupt local production. Leo Kok, a Toyota SA spokesman, confirmed yesterday that many vehicles and components were sourced from Japan, including the Quantum, Prius, RAV4, Yaris, all Lexus and Land Cruiser products plus components used in its truck assembly operations.

Kok said Toyota Motor's 12 main plants in Toyota City in Nagoya were unaffected by the earthquake and tsunami, but four affiliate plants in Sendai, which manufactured both vehicles and components, had been damaged.

He said all of Toyota's plants in Japan had been shut until today and several teams were assessing the situation, not only of their affiliate plants, but also component manufacturers and service suppliers. "We are eagerly awaiting feedback on how, if at all, it affects us (Toyota SA)." Kok added that there were also infrastructure issues with ports in Japan being closed.

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He said it would be difficult for Toyota SA to export any locally produced vehicles to Japan because its version of the Corolla varied slightly in design and specification from the model produced for the Japanese market. Japan was not a source country for the Hilux or Fortuner, the other two models produced by Toyota SA.

Veralda Schmidt, a Nissan SA spokeswoman, said some damage had been caused to buildings and equipment at Nissan Motor's plants in Japan and production had been suspended for a few days. But Schmidt said plants in Oppama, Kyushu, Shatai and Yokohama would resume production today and its plants in Tochigi and Iwaki would reopen on Friday. Schmidt said some completely built up vehicle models Nissan sold in South Africa were imported from Japan, including the Patrol, GT-R and 370Z.

It could possibly source the Patrol from other plants but the GT-R and 370Z were built only in Japan, she said. "The full extent of the damage has not been assessed. We are okay for stock in the short to medium term. As we are preparing for our new fiscal (year) to start on April 1, stock is docking shortly," she said. Schmidt added that Nissan SA sourced various components from suppliers in Japan for models produced in South Africa, including the Tiida, Livina and NP300 Hardbody, but it had sufficient stock "for the short to medium term".

She said it was premature to comment on the possibility of Nissan SA producing additional vehicles for export because of production problems in Japan as the full impact of the disaster had not yet been assessed.

A Suzuki South Africa spokesperson said: "The Suzuki Motor Corporation factory in Hamamatsu is closed until Wednesday, mostly to assist with power sharing for Japan as a whole. The factory was not affected directly, but certain suppliers down the line have been affected and this will impact on our production."

Joeline Dabrowski of Honda SA, said its hybrid models, the Civic four-door and all Honda Accord models were sourced from Japan, but the local subsidiary also sourced cars from the UK and Thailand. Dabrowski said with the information available, the disaster had not affected supply and Honda believed it had sufficient stock to see the company through this period.

She confirmed that all production activities at Honda plants in Japan had been suspended to assess damage to the facilities. This was because of a short supply of parts and the need to assess which suppliers had been affected and in view of the nationwide recovery efforts taking place in Japan.

Dabrowski said a decision on the resumption of production would be made towards the end of this week based on the status of the recovery of Honda's parts suppliers and Japanese society as a whole. -Business Report

### **YOUR WILD CARD IS ON ITS WAY**

It has begun. The countdown till you get your new-look *Wild Card* is under way. Hein Grobler of the *Wild Card* programme has confirmed that the new *Wild Cards* will be posted this month to card members who have purchased and updated their details and whose data is clean.

There are many card members whose details have not yet been updated and whose records are





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incomplete – please go online and check your details are in order to get your new card. The *Wild Card* team would also like to sincerely apologise for the delay, which resulted from incomplete data, and look forward to sending you your card!

Also watch your postbox for a bumper issue of *Wild*, which will be mailed to all members who have purchased the new card since 20 October 2010. This exciting issue looks at the beautiful and elusive Cape leopard. A trip to Kruger's far north reveals incredible sightings and we head into the field with a big game vet. [Find out more](#) about this issue or read *Wild* [online](#).

Want to know how to get the new *Wild Card*? Visit our blog at [www.wildcard.co.za](http://www.wildcard.co.za). You'll find all the information about the new *Wild Card* and the procedure to follow when purchasing or updating your card. If you have any questions, get in touch with the call centre on 0861 GO WILD (0861-469-453) or email us at [enews@wildcard.co.za](mailto:enews@wildcard.co.za)

### **CENTURION DEFENDER TROPHY 2011 NEWS**

The Land Rover Centurion Defender trophy 2011 was really great and it was great to have such an amazing team of guys to work with to make the event the success it is. A very big thank you to my team, Dawie de Beer (or as he is better known, Dirty Dawie), Pieter van Blommestein and Marc Hanekom, these guys did an absolutely fantastic job. The guys in the kitchen (Richard, Michael and Tsepo) did a fantastic job once again, led by the kitchen master himself Bennet. Feeding 80 hungry people in the bush is no joke.

I would also like to mention last year's winner Rob Erikson-Miller who really enjoyed being in the organizing committee and holds new respect for event organizers. It was such a pleasure having Rob on board who is a master Bush Chef and brought along his expertise regarding 4x4 Challenge driving. Rob thank you for your all your amazing hard work and effort as well as the use of Achmed and then The Beast, what a beaut. Thanks must be made to Johan Klopper (or as everyone knew him as "Oom Johan"). It was great having you along and your knowledge of the Venda history and their culture as well as the Fauna and Flora was magical. It has become a tradition on Defender Trophy now that the winners of the previous event become part of the following years organizing committee and well these guys really took out all the stops and were great to have as part of the recce and marshaling team. We look forward to having the Lads from team "TEAM MOTORDOGS". Oh and congratulations Colin Gallop and Bruce Mc Donald who make up the team.

Jessica thank you for all the behind the scenes stuff, it all just happens and it invariably has something to do with Jessica making it happen. A special word of thanks goes out to Craig Rohland and all of his staff from Land Rover Centurion for all their effort to making the event a great success. The Centurion Defender Trophy is going places and is evolving with the times.

A special thanks goes out to Kinglsey Holgate who had a special talk to the competitors this year and signed memorabilia till late. Thanks to Andy Goy and Lesley Sutton from Land Rover South Africa for making the time to join us on the event, it is great to be working closely with Land Rover South Africa, their input will be invaluable to making Defender Trophy bigger and better in future. A very special thank you goes out to all our sponsors on the event, it is an old cliché' but the sponsors make the event happen, and all the competitors really got some great prizes after all the hard work was complete.



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This year was a first as we were joined by the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) of South Africa. The team (Kelly Marnewick & Nicola Vogel & Grant Beverley & Brendon Whittington-Jones) created awareness and held talks on the status of the Wild Dogs in South Africa. It was really special and the team managed to raise a vast amount of donated money from the competitors. This money will go to help preserving your wildlife.

Thanks must be made to Rieghard & Eidle Jansen Van Rensburg who are currently completing the official Defender Trophy 2011 VENDA – DVD. The youtube snippet looks like it will be awesome yet again. Thanks you two, it is always a pleasure having you on board.

A big thank you to Andrew Brown and Paul Kerr from Land Rover Experience for all your contributions and expertise in running this year's Defender Trophy.

There were also 4 journalists (Thanks to all of them as well) that joined in on all the action of Land Rover Centurion Defender Trophy, so keep a look out on your local news stand in the next few months to get in on what actually happens.

Kevin Girling from Land Rover World and Terry Mason were roughing it with us and it was great to see them enjoy the African sun and watch Defender Men and Women enjoy exploring and being challenged. We look forward to reading their article in the Land Rover World magazine. Keep your eyes peeled.

Well done to Colin Gallop and Bruce Mc Donald (TEAM MOTORDOGS) for being crowned champions. Congratulation goes to Warren Vos and Peter Healey from "TEAM BAIRY HOLLOCKS" for winning the team spirit award.

Lastly but most certainly not least I would like to thank every single participant on Land Rover Centurion Defender Trophy, you guys were amazing, your behavior, camaraderie and all the effort you guys put in was top class, I will gladly get stuck with any one of you in the bush at any time.

For more information and articles regarding the Defender Trophy please go to:  
[www.theexperience.ning.com](http://www.theexperience.ning.com) / [www.defendertrophy.co.za](http://www.defendertrophy.co.za)

### **NAMIBIAN UPDATE**

As a precautionary measure due to rising river levels, Hakusembe River Lodge, near Rundu, has temporarily halted taking new bookings for March 2011. The lodge is operating as normal. The B10 is swamped, so guests are being transferred to the lodge by boat.

The lodge road to Hakusembe River Lodge, near Rundu, has been swamped. Guests should drive on the B10 approximately 4 km past the signpost to Mupini Health Centre. Turn right at the signpost. Guests should drive along the road until they arrive at a parking lot where there will be vehicles and boats. From here, they will be transported by boat to Hakusembe River Lodge.

New bookings for March 2011 have been suspended. Booking status for April will be advised at a later date.





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Due to uncertainty surrounding the Hobatere concession, Hobatere Lodge is closed indefinitely. Although the lodge was expected to reopen on 1 May 2011, bookings cannot be confirmed. As a result, the managers of the Lodge suggest that anyone holding reservations at Hobatere after that date should consider making a contingency plan to move them elsewhere. All prepaid reservations will be refunded.

The Hobatere campsite now falls within the 'roadside concession' which went out on public tender. Hobatere Lodge will no longer be responsible for any further campsite reservations. For future reservations please contact the Ehirovipuka Conservancy, Chairman: Asser Cell: +264 813523091.

Due to increases in demand and the need to reduce water usage, NamWater, Namibia's national water company has announced that water at the coast will be shut off between 22h00 at night and 05h00 in the morning. Tour Brief confirmed this with a call to coastal activity operator Catamaran Charters. In addition, water supply to mining operations will be reduced to 75% of previous usage.

Coastal residents have been requested to use water sparingly.

High river levels have caused the temporary closure of Kunene River Lodge. The lodge does not expect to be able to accommodate guests or to take any new bookings before April.

Following concerns about rising waters in far northern Namibia and north-eastern Namibia, the individual lodge statuses are as follows:

- Hakusembe River Lodge - has reopened with two rooms and the floating chalet, but water levels may rise at short notice. Please call to check in advance.
- Impalila Island Lodge - the lodge is operating as normal. The airstrip is closed, and guests are being transferred by boat from Kasane.
- Lianshulu Lodge - the lodge is operating as normal.
  
- Namushasha Country Lodge - the lodge is operating as normal. Follow the clearly marked detour signs.
- Ndhovu Safari Lodge - the lodge is operating as normal, but due to swamping of the access road, guests will be transported from the parking lot to the lodge by boat. The campsite is closed.
- Ntwala Island Lodge - the lodge is operating as normal. The airstrip is closed, and guests are being transferred by boat from Kasane.
- Susuwe Island Lodge - the lodge is operating as normal.

4X4 offroad travel and activities that require 4X4 vehicles may be cancelled, depending on conditions. Guests should be advised to stick to the main highway and other well-travelled routes. Road conditions should be established on departure by asking at reception or by calling the destination ahead.

Info received voluntarily from [marketing@tourbrief.com](mailto:marketing@tourbrief.com)



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**COME AND VISIT EENDEKUIL**

Dear Alan,

We would like to invite you, your team, friends and your members/clients to come visit us. Flower season is almost here August, September. And we also have at least 7 fantastic 4X4 routes on our doorstep.

Come build team, catch spirit or just relax and enjoy the beauty of the Western Cape. Visit our website in the meantime for more information. Looking forward to having you all here with us.



**NO MORE AARTO DELAY: TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT**

March 4 2011 at 10:55am

Transport minister Jeff Radebe inspects driving licences during the Aarto project launch in July 2008. The department of transport says there will be no further delays in the roll-out of the points demerit system. Picture: Phill Magakoe

Claims that the roll-out of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (Aarto) Act had been delayed again were not true, the national transport department said on Wednesday. It was reacting to a statement by Justice Project South Africa, which said the Aarto act and its points-demerit system, which was supposed to come into effect on or by April 1, had again been delayed.

Department spokesman Logan Maistry said transport minister Sibusiso Ndebele had not announced the date for the roll-out yet. "The minister has not announced any date as yet. Once the minister is fully satisfied that the national roll-out of Aarto may proceed, a date will be announced accordingly."

He explained that Aarto's roll-out in 2010 was postponed following representations from various sectors, including certain provinces, municipalities and organised labour. "The roll-out of Aarto is envisaged during the new financial year, which commences on April 1, 2011 and ends on March 31, 2012." - Sapa

**APRIL STAR CALENDAR supplied by TECHNOPRO**

[astro@technopro.co.za](mailto:astro@technopro.co.za)

April is Global Astronomy Month <http://www.gam-awb.org/>

- 2 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 9h UT (distance 406,656 km; angular size 29.4').
- 3 **New Moon** at 14:33 UT. Start of lunation 1092. • [Lunation Number](#) (Wikipedia)





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- 4 **Saturn at opposition** (opposite the Sun) at 0h UT. Visible all night long, the ringed planet is at its brightest (mag. +0.6) and closest all year (disk diameter 19.4"). Saturn's rings appear magnificent even in a small telescope. • [Opposition](#) (Wikipedia)
- 6 **Jupiter at conjunction** with the Sun at 15h UT. Passes into the morning sky (not visible).
- 7 **Moon near the Pleiades** at 11h UT. • [Pleiades \(star cluster\)](#) (Wikipedia)
- 8 **Moon near Aldebaran** at 7h UT.
- 9 **Mercury at inferior conjunction** with the Sun at 20h UT. Mercury passes into the morning sky.
- 11 **First Quarter Moon** at 12:06 UT.
- 11 **Moon near Pollux** (afternoon sky) at 15h UT.
- 12 **Moon near Beehive cluster** (evening sky) at 17h UT.
- 14 **Moon near Regulus** (morning sky) at 5h UT.
- 17 **Moon near Saturn** (morning sky) at 3h UT. Mag. +0.4.
- 17 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 6h UT (358,090 km; 33.4').
- 17 **Moon near Spica** (midnight sky) at 22h UT.
- 18 **Full Moon** at 2:44 UT. • [Full Moon Names](#) (Wikipedia)
- 21 **Moon near Antares** (morning sky) at 0h UT.
- 22 **Lyrid meteor shower peaks** at 23h UT. Active April 16-25. Radiant is between Hercules and Lyra. Expect 10 to 20 bright, fast meteors per hour at its peak.
  - [The Lyrids](#) (Gary Kronk)
  - [Meteor Shower Calendar](#) (IMO)
- 23 **Venus 0.85° SSE from Uranus** (30° from Sun, morning sky) at 2h UT. Mags. -3.9 and +5.9.
- 25 **Last Quarter Moon** at 2:47 UT.
- 29 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 18h UT (distance 406,039 km; angular size 29.4').
- 30 **Moon near Venus** (28° from Sun, evening sky) at 18h UT. Mag. -3.9.

All times Universal Time (UT). SA Standard Time = UT + 2 hours.

### **DON'T SIT TOO CLOSE TO AIRBAGS**

Carrying an explosive device in your car that is capable of killing you doesn't sound like a good idea, but most of us do just that. I'm talking about airbags, not hand grenades. OK, airbags save a heck of a lot more lives than they take, but nevertheless are potentially dangerous.

They are often thought of as inflatable balloons that will prevent injury in the event of a crash. No doubt they do a good job and, with seatbelts, do lessen the severity of injuries that would be incurred in most types of collision, but they are neither balloons nor foolproof. Like any mechanical or electro-mechanical system, things can go wrong. There are on-board diagnostics





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relating to airbags, but their usefulness varies from car to car. Unfortunately, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, or in this case, the crashing.

The airbag inflates when a direction-sensitive impact sensor tells the airbag ECU that a collision has occurred in its operational area. The bag in fact deflates immediately it has filled, thus providing a shock-absorbing effect.

On some vehicles there could be as many as 14 bags strategically placed. Direction-sensitive sensors are required because a bag in the steering wheel, for example, should only inflate in the dead-ahead position or up to 30 degrees either side of it. Impacts outside these limits should cause the side bags to inflate. Obviously, multiple bag systems will have sensors all over the place to protect from all various impact directions.

Early impact sensors, bearing in mind that airbags have been around for about 30 years, relied on a ball shooting along a channel when an impact occurred.

The ball would then overcome its holding spring's pressure and make an electrical contact to activate the bag. Later versions operated electronically, but each required an impact of at least 25km/h to activate.

When the ECU receives the sensor signal a firing pin triggers a detonator and ignites a compound in pellet form that produces carbon dioxide and nitrogen gases under high pressure to inflate the bag. The whole sequence takes only milliseconds.

However, if you sit too close to the steering wheel and a bag inflates, it would probably feel worse than a right-hander from Mike Tyson. Ideally sit no closer than about 25cm to the wheel and don't hang trinkets, charms, plastic doggies and other potentially dangerous things between you and the bag. People have been seriously injured or even killed by airbags.

After a bump in which the bag fails to inflate an airbag may become unstable, so be aware. A steering-wheel bag that breaks away from its necessarily fragile holder and hits you at about 300km/h will not improve your day. Many rescue workers and technicians have found to their cost that after an accident in which the bag failed to deploy, it could be activated by no more than turning the steering wheel.

Working on airbags without special knowledge and equipment is not recommended. But, if you do decide to check something, first disconnect the battery and allow 15 minutes for the capacitors to drain.

#### **THE NIGHT SKY OBSERVING GUIDE FOR APRIL 2011**

**Sirius** is the first star to appear at dusk, midway down the northwest sky. It is soon followed by **Canopus**, southwest of the zenith. Below Sirius are **Rigel and Betelgeuse**, the brightest stars in **Orion**. Between them is a line of three stars: Orion's belt. To **southern hemisphere** star watchers, the line of three makes the bottom of 'The Pot', now tipped on its side. Orion's belt points down and left to a V-shaped pattern of stars making the face of **Taurus the Bull**. Below and right of Sirius, are **Procyon**. The planet **Saturn** is in the east sky, making a widely spaced pair with **Spica**. In the southeast are the Pointers, **Beta and Alpha Centauri**, with **Crux**, the Southern Cross, above them.

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**Sirius**, 'the Dog Star', marks the head of **Canis Major** the big dog. A group of stars above it make the dog's hindquarters and tail. Sirius is the brightest star in the sky both because it is relatively close, nine light years away, and 23 times brighter than the sun.

Low in the north are **Pollux and Castor**, the heads of **Gemini** the twins, making a line vertical to the skyline. Above and right them is the **Praesepe** cluster, marking the shell of **Cancer** the crab. Praesepe is also called the **Beehive cluster**, the reason obvious when it is viewed in binoculars. It is 500 light years away.

Further right is **Regulus**, the brightest star of **Leo**. Below Regulus a sickle-shaped pattern of stars makes the lion's mane. To its right a zigzag of stars form the lion's hind legs. Leo is upside down to us as these constellation pictures were thought up by northern hemisphere sky watchers.

**Saturn** is the brightest 'star' in the empty eastern sky at dusk. To its right, and slightly fainter, is Spica the brightest star in **Virgo**. Saturn's rings appear quite narrow in a telescope after being edge-on for the past two years. Saturn is 1300 million km away in mid April. It is midway up the north sky by midnight.

**Rigel**, left of Orion's belt, is a bluish supergiant star, 40 000 times brighter than the sun and much hotter. It is 800 light years away. Orange **Betelgeuse**, right of the line of three, is a red-giant star, cooler than the sun but much bigger and 9 000 times brighter. It is 400 light years from us. The handle of "The Pot", or Orion's sword, has the **Orion Nebula** at its centre; a glowing gas cloud many light-years across and around 1300 light years away.

**Crux**, the **Southern Cross**, is high in the southeast. Below it are Beta and Alpha Centauri, often called 'The Pointers'. Alpha Centauri is the closest naked-eye star, 4.3 light years away. Beta Centauri, like most of the stars in Crux, is a blue-giant star hundreds of light years away. Canopus is also a very luminous distant star; 13 000 times brighter than the sun and 300 light years away.

**The Milky Way** is brightest in the southeast above Crux. The Milky Way can be traced to nearly overhead where it fades. It becomes very faint in the northwest, right of Orion. The Milky Way is our edgewise view of the galaxy, the pancake of billions of stars of which the sun is just one. The centre of the galaxy is toward **Sagittarius**, below the **Scorpion's** sting, where the Milky Way is broad and bright.

The **Clouds of Magellan**, **LMC** and **SMC** are midway down the southwest sky, easily seen by eye on a dark moonless night. They are two small galaxies about 160 000 and 200 000 light years away.

Brilliant **Venus** rises in the east early a.m.. It circles the sun faster than us and is now moving to the far side. Near the end of April the planets **Mercury**, **Mars** and **Jupiter** will all appear in the dawn sky below Venus. Mercury passes us on April 9 and is moving to the far side of the sun. It appears just below Venus but is much fainter. We are catching up on Mars and Jupiter which are presently on the far side of the sun. They are close together in the sky, well below Venus. Jupiter is bright, though outshone by Venus. Mars has an orange tint and similar brightness to Mercury.

An advertisement for Pioneer Plastics. The top half features the company name 'PIONEER PLASTICS' in large, bold, blue letters on a yellow background. Below the name is the slogan 'Anything's Possible' in a cursive font. Underneath that, it says 'WE SPECIALISE IN CUSTOM MOULDINGS' and provides the website 'www.pioneerplastics.co.za' and the phone number 'Tel: 012 541 6000'. The bottom half of the ad shows various plastic products, including a red cooler, a blue cooler, a white cooler, and a blue cooler, along with a person using a tool to work on a plastic mold.

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On April 30 their distances from us are: Mercury 107 million km; Venus 215 million km; Mars 350 million km; Jupiter 890 million km.

Interested in astronomy – email Kobie at [astro@technopro.co.za](mailto:astro@technopro.co.za)

### **NZG STAFF ACQUIRE SKILLS FOR NEW AFRICAN PENGUIN EXHIBIT**

*Tracy Shaw, Jackie Ballaram and Abeda Dawood, NZG Conservation Department*

In preparation of the imminent opening of the new African Penguin exhibit and the move of the Bayworld seals and 24 African Penguins to the NZG, several NZG staff members have visited Bayworld Oceanarium in Port Elizabeth over the past few months.

NZG conservation staff members Tracy Shaw and Jackie Ballaram had a very informative training visit to Bayworld in February 2011. The two worked closely with Oceanarium staff members, Tracy focusing on African penguin husbandry and Jackie concentrating on seal training techniques. They also had a chance to dive in the Aquarium's colourful tropical tank and help with the cleaning of the tank.

Tracy and Jackie acquired numerous skills during the visit, including feeding and medicating all animals, training sessions with animals, animal care and husbandry techniques, microphone and commentary training, monitoring of animal health, blood sampling, cleaning, research, and much more.

Their visit to Bayworld was an invaluable experience for them and stands the NZG in good stead for the arrival of the African penguins in March 2011 and the seals in May. Another NZG staff member Elsie Pieterse will be at Bayworld until March 24, when she will be travelling back to Pretoria with the NZG's new penguins.

We look forward to working closely with the Bayworld Oceanarium staff in the near future.

### **MAIZE MAZE NOW READY TO BE CHALLENGED**

We are happy to let you know that our new Maize Maze is now open. With 3.5km of pathways in a mielie field, this is a challenge for everyone. We have a brand new themed quiz, with questions from classical mythology to guess the advert and can you recognize the language. The quiz is suitable for all ages, in fact it would be a good idea to bring granny! The field will be at its best during March-May so please try and get here soon!

SO..... If you know who 'got it all this morning', or if you have some 'snap, crackle pop' left in your step..... Then 'just do it' and come and explore our maze!

As our best advertising is word of mouth, please tell your friends. Come and enjoy this glorious weather, remember hats and comfy walking shoes.

See you soon.

*Judy Hall*

*Mobile: 073 795 2174 / Fax: 086-5549015*

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

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### **OFF ROAD MARSHAL UNIT**

The Off Road Marshal Unit goes back over 35 years when a small group of 4x4 enthusiasts got together to combine their love of the bush with their passion for motor racing. This group founded the Four Wheel Drive Club of Southern Africa ([FWDCSA](#)) whose involvement in off road racing was primarily in assisting with the organisation of the Total Trans-Kalahari Race which with the change of sponsorship from Total to Toyota in 1981 was rebranded the Toyota Kalahari Botswana 1000 Desert race (more affectionately referred to as [TDR](#)). This off road race has been organised primarily by members of the Marshal Unit of the Club for 21 years giving them exposure not just to manning marshal points and partaking in the race but also pioneering and marking the routes providing the opportunity to venture into areas of Botswana not normally accessible to the general public and to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of bush life sitting around a camp fire in the evenings listening to the calls of wildlife and partaking of the camaraderie which is a vital feature of the unit.

In the early days, like the racing itself, the Marshal Unit was perceived to be a macho environment offering, in addition to the thrill of participating in off road racing, the opportunity of the guys to get away and spend "quality time with the boys". However, this image has completely changed and the Unit is very much family oriented with the whole family being encouraged to become involved. In addition, with the changing face of off road racing, although a 4x4 is the preferred, and often an essential mode of transport to access the more remote points on off road routes, it is no longer essential to own a four wheel drive vehicle to be able to participate.

Over the years the professionalism of the marshals resulted in an increasing demand for their services in races other than TDR and the Unit is currently actively involved in a host of off road events (cars, bikes and quads) including many of the races in the ABSA off road racing calendar. This provides an opportunity to visit a variety of places throughout southern Africa. In November 2010 the Unit assisted with the "Roof of Africa", an International endurance off road bike race hosted in the mountains of Lesotho. This race is one of "The Big Five" races that make up the World Xtreme Enduro Championship.

But it is not only off road racing that makes up the [Unit calendar](#). During the past three years the ORMU has built up a close relationship with its major sponsor, Bridgestone, in assisting with the organisation of the Bridgestone Fundi Challenge. Here the competitors test their off road driving and recovery skills in attempting obstacles rather than their high speed skills in driving through the bush.

In addition, the Unit was approached by Sun International to assist in the organisation of a mountain bike race in Swaziland later in 2011. The Unit has also been able to provide a community service by assisting with charity events and will be involved in the Dare to Dream [Boxcart](#) race early in February.

This increased demand for the services of the Unit has created a need to source marshals from clubs other than the FWDCSA. Consequently, in 2009 the Unit was restructured becoming a "stand alone" body with its own constitution, financial system and an organising committee thereby opening membership to members from other off road clubs. Further the Unit joined with the Kyalami Marshals Association under the umbrella of the Gauteng Marshals Association. KMA



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has kindly offered us use of their facilities at Kyalami and the Unit holds its monthly Get Togethers at Kyalami.

It is not the intention of the Unit to offer an alternative to membership of other clubs but rather as a coordinating body that brings together marshals units from other organisations to work jointly at off road events and to come together at the various social events that the Unit organises. The autonomy members affiliation with there "home" clubs is not affected and one of the features of ORMU is that the Unit regalia proudly sports both the Unit logo and the logo of the affiliated club. Consequently, the membership fee has been set at a nominal figure that effectively covers the cost of membership cards and a bumper stickers. Financial support for the Unit comes primarily from sponsorship and from financial support form race organisers.

An extremely successful partnership has been forged with the Lichtenburg 4x4 Klub, members of whom worked together with our Gauteng members at many of the events where the Unit officiated during 2010. we look forward to continuing our friendship in working together during 2011.

Of course there is a further more serious objective that comes from the recognition that there is a massive shortage of marshals throughout the area that can only be addressed if the resources of the plethora of off road clubs can be integrated into a single organisational structure. For this to be successful there is a need for a common operational standard and to this end the Off Road Marshal Manual, evolved within the FWDCSA over many years and recently revamped by ORMU, has been compiled. Accreditation for this with MSA is currently being investigated. This manual is used as the basis for marshal training within ORMU.

It is also planned to offer a range of training courses in areas including primary first aid, driver training, GPS skills, radio communication skills. To this end the Unit is currently receiving support from Bridgestone but it is hoped that other sponsors will also provide assistance in developing the services offered by members of the Unit.

However, in meeting the objectives of the Unit in providing a nationwide marshal service it is recognised that we are a voluntary body of people who participate in order to have fun and meet new friends. There is therefore a strong focus on the social side of membership of the Unit and the opportunity for families and friends to be involved.

The Unit has a web site ([Off Road Marshal Unit](#)) which provides some insight into what we are all about.





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### LEGALITIES AROUND GUIDING IN BOTSWANA

The following legislation was passed on the 3rd of September 2010 in **Botswana**, affecting all foreign tour operators in the country: **TOURISM (RESERVATION OF TOURIST ENTERPRISES FOR CITIZENS) REGULATIONS, 2010** (Published on 3 Sept 2010)

1. Citation
2. Reservation of tourist enterprises for citizens

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Minister of Environment, Wildlife and tourism by section 23 (1) of the Tourism Act, the following Regulations are hereby made

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Tourism (Reservation of Tourist Citation Enterprises for Citizens) Regulations, 2010.

**2. The following tourist enterprises are hereby reserved for citizens of Botswana or companies which are wholly owned by citizens of Botswana**

- (a) **guest houses** (except corporate guest houses)
- (b) **mobile safaris**
- (c) **motorboats**
- (d) **tourist transfers**
- (e) **camp and caravan sites**
- (f) **mekoro**

Foreign Tour Operators now needs an I-licence to operate mobile safaris in Botswana:

#### I Licence

Externally based companies that offer tourism related activities within Botswana. **They may transfer tourists along the main roads and utilise public facilities. Holders are not allowed to conduct their own safaris into the game reserves or national parks but may hand over to a Botswana licensed operator if they wish to utilise these facilities.**

The I-licence can be obtained from Botswana Government in Gaborone. The application fee is US\$2,000.00/company: The Republic of Botswana, Department of Tourism, Licensing and Inspection Division, Queens Road, The Main Mall, Standard House, 2nd Floor, Gaborone, Botswana. The contact person is Mrs. Mopati Venesa Rammekwa, e-mail [mrammekwa@gov.bw](mailto:mrammekwa@gov.bw) Tel: +267-3953024 / +267-3953396 /+267-3620713/06 Fax: +267-3908675.

Foreign Tour Operators that wish to enter Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks, such as Moremi, Chobe, etc. will need to be accompanied by a Botswana registered guide with a C-licence.

#### **C Licence (reserved for Botswana citizens)**

For operations that offer facilities off-site such as mobile safari operators that receive and transport travellers and guests and provide them with overnight sleeping accommodation in facilities that are not geographically fixed.





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### **Bhejane 4X4 Adventures**

[www.bhejane.com](http://www.bhejane.com) / 044 535 9257 / [info@bhejane.com](mailto:info@bhejane.com)

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

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

The tour dynamics allow you and your family to enjoy the trip from the privacy of your own vehicle, while ensuring your safety and comfort in the camaraderie of group participation.

All vehicles are issued with hand-held radios to facilitate communication between participants and expeditions are fully catered by a professional chef. The team's language skills enable us to share our knowledge in English, Afrikaans, Zulu or Tswana.

#### **The team**

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

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

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

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

- All hotel and lodge accommodation
- All camp fees
- Three meals a day
- All park entrance fees
- All advertised activities
- Bhejane Adventures provides tents, cutlery and crockery
- Coffee & tea – all day every day whilst in camp

#### **Children**

Children under the age of ten years @ 50%

#### **What you need to bring**

- You and your family
- Your passport
- Your vehicle & fuel
- Your own mattresses and sleeping bags



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Your own fold-up chairs  
Your own drinks and in-between snacks

**Private tours**

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

March 2010

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

### **NEWSLETTER / MEETING FEEDBACK**

*Hi Ala, Hope this email finds you and the family well!*

*Thank you for your SUPERB Newsletters that we receive. You must be congratulated on the outstanding and informative content that is covered in them. So enjoy the read!*

*Kind Regards*

*Colin & Diane Henderson (Cape Town)*

### **EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE**

I would like to share my experience of excellent service from Escape Gear with the other members.

I bought a set of seat covers for my Hilux in 2007 from Escape Gear. Earlier this year I noticed that the site panel, where I get in and out, has worn through. Last week I finally got a chance to take the seat cover to Escape Gear to find out if they could maybe repair it for me. I spoke to Murray, and he immediately said that they will repair the cover, and that there would be no charge. He then took me on a tour of their factory. Yesterday (Sunday), he dropped the seat cover off at my house.

I really thought that this was excellent service, something very scarce nowadays. I can really recommend them, and their products are excellent as well. I also have a set of rubber mats from them, and these are also brilliant.

Cheers, Johan

Escape Gear (Cape Factory – available from most GOOD 4x4 dealers in Gauteng)

t:+27 21 7060440 / f: +27 21 7060446 / [www.escapegear.co.za](http://www.escapegear.co.za)

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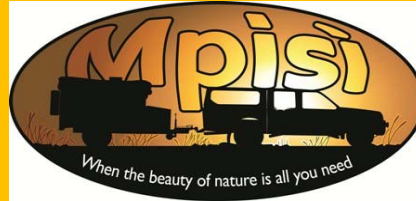
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[www.pioneerplastics.co.za](http://www.pioneerplastics.co.za)  
Tel: 012 541 6000

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**MPISI BUSH SAFARIS**

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

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

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

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

**Contact us & visit our website for further information:**

Duncan Kenney (GP3499)  
082 600 7177

Karen Chiole (GP3500)  
082 657 1252

[info@mpisibushsafaris.co.za](mailto:info@mpisibushsafaris.co.za)

[www.mpisibushsafaris.co.za](http://www.mpisibushsafaris.co.za)

**UPCOMING TRIPS:**

- 9 & 10 April 2011      Accredited 4x4 & Offroad training in accordance with US254135
- 16-21 June 2011      Sani Pass R1250 per person incl. 3 night's accommodation, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners

*March 2011*





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## ***Emergency Break!***

Hi to all our 4x4 Off-road Adventure Club & Isibonela Adventure friends. May this never happen to you or your family!

WILL BE BACK SOON!

Safe & Healthy 4x4ing  
Joke Wandrag  
Head of Training / Accredited Assessor and Moderator  
SA 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)

Herewith, this month only, an insert on **FIRE FIGHTING** for Campers, supplied by Frans Glanvill.

All fires can be very dangerous and life-threatening. Your safety should always be your primary concern when attempting to fight a fire. Any sort of fire will produce some amount of carbon monoxide, the most deadly gas produced by a fire.

Materials like wool, silk, nylon and some plastics can produce other highly toxic gases such as carbon dioxide, hydrogen cyanide, or hydrogen chloride. Beware - all of these can be fatal. Smoke inhalation or exposure to fire itself can be life threatening so get educated about the basics in CPR and burn treatment.

### **Classes of Fire**

*Class A* – Involve wood, cloth, paper, rubber, plastic and other ordinary combustibles

*Class B* – Involve flammable liquids, such as petrol/diesel, oil, thinners, paint and oil/petroleum based products

*Class C* – Involve energised electrical equipment, such as wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, appliances and distribution boxes/panels

*Class D* – Involve combustible materials such as magnesium, potassium and sodium, which burn at high temperatures. Their combustion is self-sustaining as they evolve oxygen. There is no designator for Class D extinguishers as they are in a specialist category.

*Class F* – Involve commercial restaurant cooking oils.

Fires most likely to be encountered fall into classes A, B, AC, BC, or ABC, of which the last 3 represent combinations

### **Before deciding to fight a fire, be certain that:**

- The fire is small and not spreading. (A fire can double in size within two or three minutes.)
- You have the proper fire extinguisher for what is burning.

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- The fire won't block your exit if you can control it. A good way to ensure this is to keep the exit at your back.
- You know your fire extinguisher works:
  - ✓ Inspect extinguishers once a month for dents, leaks or other signs of damage.
  - ✓ Ensure the pressure is at the recommended level.
  - ✓ On extinguishers equipped with a gauge, the needle should be in the green zone - not too high and not too low.
  - ✓ You service it annually.
  - ✓ You know how to use your fire extinguisher (see PASS test below).

If a fire occurs, you certainly do not have the time to read your instruction manual. You need to ensure that you already know how to use your extinguisher. Although there are many different types of fire extinguishers, all of them operate in a similar manner.

#### Never fight a fire if:

- The fire is spreading rapidly. Only use a fire extinguisher when the fire is in its early stages.
- If the fire is already spreading quickly, evacuate and call the fire department.
- You don't know what is burning. Unless you know what is burning, you won't know what type of fire extinguisher to use.
- Even if you have an ABC extinguisher, there could be something that will explode or produce highly toxic smoke.
- You don't have the proper fire extinguisher. The wrong type of extinguisher can be dangerous or life-threatening.
- There is too much smoke or you are at risk of inhaling smoke. Seven out of ten fire-related deaths occur from breathing poisonous gases produced by the fire.

#### Vehicle Fires

Most vehicle fires are caused by electrical faults or fuel leaks on to heated exhaust systems. Vehicle fires can be extinguished by means of an extinguisher in the early stages. Once extinguished the battery should be disconnected immediately. If unable to extinguish evacuate the area to at least 15 meters as rupturing fuel tanks will intensify the fire.

#### Bush Fires

Bush fires occur mostly in winter and are responsible for widespread damage and deaths if not contained quickly. Bush fires are a special threat to campers as they occur in the camping environment. Campsite selection and making of cooking fires are criteria to be considered when camping out.

#### LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Gas is used extensively in the outdoor environment and is safe and efficient. Equipment must be checked before each excursion and repaired immediately if found defective. Most gas fires can be extinguished by closing-off the cylinder. If the valve cannot be shut-off evacuate the area to at least 50 meters.

#### Fire Blankets

Fire blankets are made of asbestos free woven fibreglass material able to withstand temperatures of up to 550°C. Draped over a fire such as a pot of burning cooking oil these blankets smother the





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fire by starving the fire of oxygen. They may be used to wrap around a person whose clothes are on fire.

Fire blankets are far more effective than a wet towel or blanket.

### Smoke Detectors

Early detection is your best safeguard. The smoke alarm is a battery operated ionization smoke alarm easy to install emitting an 85dB alarm signal with a battery life of  $\pm 1$  year. They are best installed in kitchens, passages and garages.

### Types of Extinguishers

Dry Chemical powder – DCP

Carbon Dioxide – CO<sub>2</sub>

Foam, Water and specialist extinguishers

### P A S S - (Pull – Aim – Squeeze – Sweep)

Use this acronym as a quick reference (it is a good idea to print this reference and pin it next to your fire extinguisher):

- **Pull the Pin** at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.
- **Aim at the base of the fire**, not the flames. This is important - in order to put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.
- **Squeeze the lever slowly**. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.
- **Sweep from side to side**. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish. Be sure to read the instructions on your fire extinguisher - different fire extinguishers recommend operating them from different distances. Remember: Aim at the base of the fire, not at the flames!

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## *Fresh from the Bush – New Products*

### NEW ACTION HD VIDEO CAMERA (WITH STILL CAPABILITY) AND WATERPROOF

The Adventure Camera that can be mounted ANYWHERE. Full HD Video and 5 Megapixel stills. THESE CAMERAS OUTPUT CAN BE SEEN ON THE BRIDGESTONE 4x4 FUNDI CHALLENGE's FOOTAGE ON DSTV – They are using them as extras on the filming side (in car, through windscreen, on back windows etc.).

I just bought myself a GoPro camera - these little adventure/sports/underwater HD video <http://gopro.com/videos/> and stills cameras are amazing! Mount onto your 4x4 or bike with a suction mount and drive through water <http://gopro.com/videos/tv-commercial/kayak-chutes/>, mud, sand or anything else and wash the camera off. Use on a helmet, mount on your surfboard <http://gopro.com/videos/tv-commercial/surfing-with-daize/> or boat/aeroplane





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<http://gopro.com/videos/tv-commercials/base-jumping-in-norway/>, fit to you handle bar on your bicycle, fit to a motorcycle or quad.

The camera writes straight onto an SD card and can be read immediately by your PC/Notebook, no need to download video tapes!!!! The camera does 5 megapixel stills <http://gopro.com/photos/> , fixed 170 degree wide angle lens can do auto still shots at designated intervals. Housing is waterproof to 60 meters..ideal for some water crossing shots.

Check out the sample videos shot with the GoPro <http://gopro.com/videos/moto/>

We are now agents for GoPro and therefore can offer some better pricing.



The GoPro 960 comes with accessories and all cables.....

**EXTRA PRICED ACCESSORIES: (FOR OPENING SPECIAL WEEK ONLY).**

Additional Battery packs R599

Handle Bar mount R185

Suction mount R270

SD Card Lexar 16 Gig R499

Contact: [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za) for the best quote in GP!!!

**NEW WATERLESS CARWASH – NO WASTING**

Perfectcar has a unique product which allows cars to be washed completely without using or wasting water. It is guaranteed not to scratch. In fact it is impossible for the vehicle to be scratched when washing with this special product. It is also a water dispersant and is UV protective and leaves the vehicle looking like new.

I have just started a mobile carwash using this fantastic washing system, and have bought the rights to work in the Isando, Spartan and Route 24 areas. Being mobile allows me to come to your place of work and wash vehicles on site, saving you the queuing and time wasting normally associated with carwashes. Because it is a waterless system, there is no mess, and it is also absolutely environmentally friendly.

Being a club member and off-road enthusiast I would offer to all club members preferential pricing i.e. less 10% on all below prices.





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	Cars	Combis SUVs 4X4s
Outside clean	R 49,00	R60.00
Inside Clean	R 35,00	R50.00
Inside & Out	R 79,00	R90.00
Mini Valet	R169.00	R185.00
Full Valet	R 375,00	R395.00

Marcus Haw – 082-801-0230

**K-SPORT BIG BRAKE KITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA!**

**Powerbrake**, South Africa's undisputed leader in the field of high-performance and race brake components, has been awarded sole South African distributorship for **K-SPORT brake kits**. Powerbrake's backing will ensure that SA enthusiasts can rely on competitive pricing, good stock availability, excellent technical backup and guaranteed spares availability for the complete range of K-SPORT brake kits.

For more information go to: <http://www.ksport.co.za>

Background:

Many SA enthusiasts and racers will be aware that Powerbrake design and manufacture our own line of high-end, billet big brake kits that have been proven at the highest levels of motorsport in both our domestic and export markets. With so much of our own production capacity being dedicated to high-end race brake kits, we are not always able to help the numerous street and track day customers that contact us wanting to purchase a quality big brake kit in the time frame that we would like to. For this reason, we decided to look into the possibility of importing a line of quality big brake kits that we could offer alongside our own kits.

We spent an enormous amount of time evaluating products from a number of leading big brake kit manufacturers around the world. Of course we have all of the test equipment available in-house to evaluate brake kits thoroughly, based on the machinery that we use to test and develop our own race brake kits. After a full year spent evaluating products from four different manufacturers, we finally settled on the K-SPORT brake kit line, which we feel offers excellent performance for the money. Our evaluation process included extensive road and track testing as when as a host of other quality checks and brake balance simulations.

K-SPORT brake kits are manufactured in a TUV/ISO 9001:2008 certified factory. The K-SPORT fitment range is class leading, with approximately 700 vehicle platforms being covered. In many cases K-SPORT offer a number of different front and rear kit options for each vehicle platform in their catalogue. They also carry very large inventory, meaning that their supply rates are very good. Powebrake has also invested substantially in local stock holding and will be able to offer same-day dispatch on many popular brake kit fitments. If we do not have a required kit in stock, we can offer an expedited airfreight service, allowing us to import the kit in question within approximately 2 weeks from date of order.





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The Powerbrake difference:

Our existing customers will know that we are obsessive about quality at Powerbrake. For this reason, when the decision was made to start importing a range of big brake kits to offer alongside our own product range, we chose to retain a hand in the final quality control process to ensure that our customers have complete peace of mind when purchasing from us. Since we have advanced measuring equipment in our own factory, that is used to measure disc run-out and disc thickness variation on every Powerbrake product that we manufacture, the decision was made that in spite of the fact that K-SPORT perform their own extensive quality control procedures during manufacture, we would put each K-SPORT kit that we import through our own quality control checks before supplying them to our customers. In other words, our own factory quality control staff carefully inspect every K-SPORT kit prior to delivery to our customers. We are the only K-SPORT distributor worldwide that is in a position to offer this service.

At Powerbrake, we also import and distribute high-performance and race pads from many of the world's leading pad manufacturers. We have an enormous amount of experience with a wide range of high-performance and race pads (including in-house test data on over 70 different pad compounds). This puts us in a very good position to select pad compounds that we feel best suite our local conditions. After testing numerous different pad compounds in conjunction with the K-SPORT brake kits, we have selected a unique pad compound that will be included with every K-SPORT kit that we supply in South Africa.

In other words we will be including a pad material that we feel offers better performance than the standard pads that are included with K-SPORT kits in other markets in the world. This pad compound offers excellent performance under high-performance street driving conditions. In addition to this, we also carry numerous specialized crossover and race pad compounds for all K-SPORT calipers that can cater to the needs of our track day and race customers.

Based on our purchasing volumes, we are able to make K-SPORT big brake kits available at very competitive prices. In fact, we are confident to say that you will not find a big brake kit of this quality available from any other source in South Africa at a more competitive price. If you are looking to substantially upgrade the brake performance, fade resistance, wear life and pedal feel of the brake system on your car, you will not find better value for money! K-SPORT kits are ideal for high-performance street use as well as entry-level / intermediate-level track days (when used with appropriate pad compounds).

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

### **WWF CRANE MONITORING PROJECT**

An early rise saw us grab some toasted sandwiches and mega coffees - hey what would we do without "Wimpy". Doug's briefing was short and the added info from the second-timers made the documentation much simpler than what we had initially thought.

Soon we were on our way 2 cars per route - stopping every 2 Km's as per waypoints. The weather being cloudy and later rain did not encourage the birds to be out added to this the length of the grass made for a few sightings of Sacred Ibis, Barn Owl, Cattle Egrets, Egyptian Geese,



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White Faced Ducks, however no cranes this time round. The Cosmos was in full flower standing higher than car in places and covering huge tracts of land reminding us of a winter not far away.

At one of the short stops a local farmer said he has only heard the cranes calling overhead but has never seen them on the ground - his opinion. The opportunity not only allowed for some companionship and radio chatter but also to be introduced to areas and roads that we would not ever have driven.

All in all a great morning spent out and before long the route was completed.

Thanks we will be back.  
Regards  
Glanvill Family

**HOW IS OUR BRIDGESTONE TEAM DOING – ROUND 1 RESULTS**

What a fantastic day we had together!

Guys and Gals, thanks for a fantastic day spent together with a great bunch of friends! Early morning egg and bacon rolls, coffee and good friends is all we need to start a great day in the open air. Whether we spent 3 hours or 6 hours out on the track, I only heard good things about experiences and fun had out on the track.

What we have as a team is good fun shared amongst friends. Well done to all of us. We all did the club proud! To our new friends, this is a taste of things to come, to the seasoned vets, another great trip.

Thanks to all of you for a great day. Until next time, take care  
Alan, Grant and Karine

Special congrats to Dewald, Phillip, Riaan and Martin for coming in on the Top 20 ranking.

<u>Ranking after event 1</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Driver</u>	<u>Navigator</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Hekpoort</u>
16	Team 23	Dewald Jacobs	Philip Evans	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	84.50
19	Team 44	Riaan Harmse	Martin Eddy	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	81.25
21	Team 53	Johan van der Merwe	Johan van der Merwe	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	80.18
25	Team 45	Johan van Greunen	Stephan Venter	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	78.19
27	Team 8	Grant Keenan	Karine Keenan	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	77.75
28	Team 43	Hanief Kader	Bilal Mahomed	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	77.65
32	Team 26	Llewellyn Edwards	Andries Jansen Van Vuuren	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	77.35
36	Team 18	Jack Romyn	Koos van der Merwe	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	76.29
38	Team 7	Andrew Duffy	Pierre Steenkamp	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	75.65
46	Team 68	Ken Deale	Belinda Deale	4x4 Offroad Adventure Club - Gauteng	70.30

Next round: Thabazimbi for the second round on 16 April 2011.





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### **SERENDIPITY 4x4 DAY OUTING**

We met at the Panorama Petroport at 06h30, had some coffee and a bite to eat. Unfortunately the Mohlala family had a problem and could not make it. We headed north at 07h00 and had a good drive to Serendipity. We arrived at around 08h45 The drivers reduced tyre pressures whilst I went to the office to sort out the paperwork and payment with Johan.

On returning we had a driver briefing and headed out onto the trail at around 09h00. The first part of the trail went very well without too much difficulty. We decided to attempt a section of the trail which I had never done before, but after I traversed a small part of it, with discussions with Grant and a few others, we decided that it was a bit too demanding for some of the newer members, and did not want to struggle getting the vehicles through this very tricky and demanding piece.

We made an about turn and headed back to the familiar trail. We encountered some water and small sections of mud. We traversed some rocky sections that had deteriorated somewhat since the last time, but with some caution we had got over them with no problems.

Around noon we stopped at the usual picnic spot under the trees next to the river and had lunch accompanied by a troop of noisy baboons. After which we headed back onto the trail for the home stretch which ended at about 14h30. We stood around socializing and inflating tyres for a while, then it was time for us to head home.

A great day was had by all and without any incidents or damage to vehicles. I would like to thank Grant for doing a sterling job of the back door duties and to everyone else for their assistance. Thanks to Jen for taking the photo's for us.

Thanks again to all for making it a great day with some very special people.  
Regards,  
Nigel & Denise Wilshire

*Hi Alan, trust you are well?*

*What another fantastic outing, with another fantastic group. "nigel", "grant" you cannot ask for more . Thank you guys for making another 4X4 day a perfect day.  
Regards Steve and Jen.*

### **MOOLMANSHOEK 4x4 WEEKEND**

Hi Alan,

You remind Jen and I of a good red wine, you just get better and better. Well what can I say! A pommie in boere land?

The wonderful "bloemies" I would like to thank each and everyone of them for accommodating the english tongue and helping along with the Afrikaans. As for the venue "wow" my return email is already waiting for the next visit.

A big thank you to Grant and Kim for guiding. Without these guys (Toyota sales would be down) we would never experience safe and exciting trails. Another special thank you to Frans and family for the potjie and the fire fighting demo.





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Thanks again big man, and roll on the next one. And lastly - go the landrover team.  
Regards the Wallers.

Hi Alan

Weereens net BAIE Dankie sê vir 'n AWSOME & STUNNING naweek !!!!! Ek sal tussen ons ouens probeer fotos kry en alles op 'n CD sny en vir jou pos.

Groete

**Niel Rossouw – Bloemfontein Eko 4x4 Klub**

Hi, Alan thanks to you, Johan and Niclaas for an awesome weekend, the fun and camaraderie around the camp on Saturday and the companionship on the drive on Sunday was simply unbelievable and lets not forget the breathtaking scenery that appeared around every bend.  
Neville and Helen Black

Hi Alan,

Trust that you had a safe journey back yesterday, and once again thanks for a lovely weekend it was just too short! The company was great and we had a very successful event, once again we need to give you and Charmaine a "applause" as we did enjoyed the weekend immensely.

Sanett & Kim vd Merwe

Hi Alan

Ons sê 'n GROOT dankie aan jou en al jou lede! Dit was 'n baie bak naweek! Ons sien uit na volgende jaar se kuier saam met ons nuwe vriende! Sal jy dit aan hulle oordra?

Groete

Johan

Thanks Alan

Thanks for a great weekend we are at a loss for words - great venue, friendships, ideas, organisation - just excellent.

Regards

The Glanvill Clan

Hi Alan

Just to say thank you for a stunning week end of fresh air, beautiful nature & good FS hospitality, the Krugers had good fun!

Regards

Stefan, Elize & kids

Hi Alan, we want to thank you and your club members for a outstanding weekend. We enjoyed it and thanks to all the sponsors and the surprise packet. Looking forward for our next meeting.

Callie and Renett (Bloemfontein 4x4 Eko Klub)

### **2010 AWARDS EVENING**

A belated thank you for a great evening. We certainly are humbled by the award and only have you and our club friends to thank. Without everyone this would not be possible and we as a family enjoy the new experiences and friendships.





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Just returned from the the recce to Letaba Ranch - Makuya Park and certainly this is to be a great 4x4!! wilderness trail. I will provide a short write up shortly.

Regards  
Frans & Denise Glanvill

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

### **TRAILER FOR SALE**

I am looking to sell my Echo Mark trailer. It is in great condition but I hardly ever use it, please find its description below:

- Echo Challenger 4x4 trailer.
- It has 2 roof top tents and can sleep a family of 4.
- 75Ltr water tank on the base with Diaphragm pump to get the water to a tap on the kitchen
- Drop down kitchenette with gas stove
- Electronic 12v lighting system.
- Build in wardrobe.
- I have just renewed the licence this morning

Asking Price R40 000.00

Can contact Willie direct [williamjay@telkomsa.net](mailto:williamjay@telkomsa.net)

### **4x4 BAKKIE FOR SALE**

Toyota Hilux 1987 model has new y-4 engine new front and rear break pads new radiator.Fan not working properly think it needs adjusted or tightened and the fuel and temp gauges are not working think could be a loose wire or fuse looking to sell for R70,000 neg to R60,000.

You can add my email to the add have also attached a picture if you need it. Many thanks again  
Andy - [andycurwen1970@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andycurwen1970@yahoo.co.uk)

### **4x4 KIT FOR SALE**

1. Echo 1.2m wide Roof Top tent with add a room underneath.Very good condition. R2500 ONCO
2. Warn 8000 lb electric winch with remote control& fairlead.Fully serviced.R2500 ONCO
3. 2.4m long aluminium roof rack complete with brackets for gas bottle,axe,spade,spare wheel & 4x jerry cans.Fits Nissan Patrol(square shape-Y60),gutter mount.R 1000 ONCO.

Contact Richard Wulfsohn . Cell 083 601 0608



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**ANOTHER TRAILER FOR SALE**

Anyone interested can contact Ronnie on 0828850452. Offers around R150 000 secures.  
Model: Conqueror Commander – 2007 - Condition: Excellent

- Spare wheel bracket
- Coil spring suspension & torsion bars
- Gas struts for roof lifting
- Rear stabilizers
- Jerry Can Holders
- Water Tanks ±150lt
- Carpet on floor
- Fire Extinguisher
- Basins & bracket
- Modular kitchen & fridge sliding rail
- Modular bathroom sliding rail
- Pressurized water pump & plumbing
- 3 x Fluorescent lights
- 2 x Hella Plugs
- Aluminium nose box
- 2 x Rear storage compartments
- 2 x Mosquito netting in windows

Wheels	(Tyre and Steel Rim) 245/70R15	3
Aluminium Alloy Wheels	(Tyre and Rim) 245/70R16	3
Fluorescent Lights	12V with male Hella plug	2
Spare Wheel Braai & Cover	Galvanized Braai grid fitted on Spare Wheel	1
Front fold out tent & double bed	Mattress included	1
Shower tent & sides		1
Rally tent & side panels	3x windows, 1x door & draft sheet	1
Double bed option with table		1
Gas Bottles	Cadac no 10	2
Gas bottle Mountings	Fitted in nose box	2
Jerry Cans	Imported - Milspec	2
		0
Spade	Fitted at back of caravan	1
Mountings for axe and spade	Fitted at back of caravan	1
Aluminium Camping Table	Fitted inside (1860mmx610mm)	1

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Minibar bottle holder / bathroom	Fitted in doors	2
Fitted in door-bathroom side		2
Stove	Cadac family-2 gas stove	1
Cutlery & Crockery Set	Fitted in kitchen unit	1
Freezer/Fridge (80lt/74lt DD)	National Luna fitted in sliding rail	1
Tie Downs		6
Eyelets	Fitted in lashing rails for tie down	8
		0
Geysers and plumbing	Fitted in nose box	1
Intelligent Power Pack		1
Batteries	Fitted under bed 70Ah	2
Battery Charging System	From towing vehicle	1
Key-a-Like Padlock		0
Ground sheet	5.6x2.4m	3
Aluminium stone protection	Fitted in front	1
	Fitted between A-frame and towing vehicle	



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## ***Legally Speaking.....***

### **AMENDMENT TO ACTS WILL AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS CONDUCT**

The Companies Act and Consumer Protection Act will change as from April 2011. The implementation of the new Companies Act and the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) will affect your business notably.

This has been delayed until April to give the government and others time to get ready for the massive changes that the laws are expected to bring.

**Are you aware of the changes and how it will affect you? Are you aware of the consequences of non-compliance?**

It is imperative for all entities to get ready for the massive changes that the laws are expected to bring. The laws were due to be implemented in the last quarter of 2010, but the DTI acknowledged the significant impact that the new legislation would have.

The postponement would allow affected parties to adjust their operations. The DTI is in the process of issuing regulations which will give effect to both pieces of legislation and to affect amendments to this legislation albeit not enacted yet.

These two acts are, in our view, definitely not consumer friendly and it is highly recommended that all business should obtain specialized legal advice on the implications of these two acts.

The CPA requires:

- new sales and marketing approaches by businesses
- new pricing, refunds and accounting policies and procedures
- staff training
- a review of contracts and product labelling
- and the adaptation of IT systems to allow for the new rules.

The operational process changes envisaged in these two acts are significant for most businesses and exceptionally diverse.

Be aware!

Do not underestimate the time it will take to align your business with these requirements as most businesses will have to:

- redraft warranties
- redraft contracts
- change returns policies and processes
- and train staff in these changed processes

The consequences of non-compliance will face stiff penalties of up to 10% of a company's annual turnover.

Van Greunen & Associates Inc.



**Van Greunen  
&  
Associates Inc.**

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## ***Flat Wheel – Light Relief***

### **LAND ROVERS**

- \* Spietkops skud jou hand wanneer hulle jou 'n spoedkaartjie gee.
- \* Hoekom het meeste Defenders jerrycans en gasbottels? Sodat die bestuurder kan koffie maak terwyl hy wag vir 'n insleepvoertuig.
- \* Landrovers het die beste brandstofverbruik van alle 4x4s. Hulle word altyd gesleep deur iets anders.
- \* Hulle sê 90 persent van Landrovers wat gebou is, is nog op pad, die ander 10% het hulle bestemming gehaal.
- \* Hoekom noem landrover hul modelle, 'n Reeks 90, Defender 110 ens? Dit is die topsnelhede.
- \* Jy breek nie n Landrover nie..... Jy koop hom stukkend.
- \* Vraag: Wat is die sport-weergawe van 'n Landy? Antwoord: Die bestuurder dra Nike-skoene.

### **TOOLS EXPLAINED!**

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh Damn'

**SKILL SAW:** A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

**BELT SANDER:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**VICE-GRIPS:** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

**TABLE SAW:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.





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BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminium sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

### **INFALLIBLE STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE**

Just in case you are having a rough day, here is a stress management technique recommended in all the latest psychological journals.

The funny thing is that it really does work and will make you smile.

1. Picture yourself lying on your belly on a warm rock that hangs out over a crystal clear stream.
2. Picture yourself with both your hands dangling in the cool running water.
3. Birds are sweetly singing in the cool mountain air.
4. No one knows your secret place.
5. You are in total seclusion from that hectic place called the world.
6. The soothing sound of a gentle water fall fills the air with a cascade of serenity.
7. The water is so crystal clear that you can easily make out the face of the person you are holding underwater.

There!! See? It really does work. You're smiling already. Feel free to forward this if you know others who might benefit from this technique... .





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## ***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 Coombe- Heath (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)

#### **4) 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)

#### **5) 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

#### **6) 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.

#### **7) 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.



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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)

### 8) 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 Northriding right next door to Décor Park..... Big Country really can be your 1-stop shop for all your 4x4 equipment!

Contact Richard on contact number is 011-795-9700 or [info@bigcountry4x4.com](mailto:info@bigcountry4x4.com)

### 9) TENT PURCHASES, REPAIRS AND CANVAS PRODUCTS

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

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

Contact Clive van der Vyver on [clive@caconcepts.co.za](mailto:clive@caconcepts.co.za) - Cell: 082 8225969

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

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

**NO DISCOUNTS ARE APPLICABLE BELOW – BUT 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).

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

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kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za / marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za / www.gpsconsultants.co.za  
**NO DISCOUNT OFFERED! - DISCOUNTED PRICES AVAILABLE FROM ISIBONELA ADVENTURES cc (see first section)**

### 3) HONEYDEW TOYOTA & RV CENTRE

Contact Johan Kruger (club member) for all your Toyota and other accessories at their RV Centre. New Honeydew Toyota Showroom (opposite THE COCA COLA DOME) - refer [http://www.honeydewtoyota.ix.co.za/lmg\\_upload\\_departments/3674\\_441636.gif](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.

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## Editor:

*Alan*

*Alan Goodway (GP 1796)  
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