



Trails & Tribulations...

Hi all readers,

Apologies for being a tad late this month, but as many of you know, we explored Angola for an exciting 18 day adventure. It was absolutely stunning crossing SA, Botswana and Namibia to finally cross the border into a stunning and lesser explored country on our continent, a country which was in a state of war and chaos for many years, a country with so much to offer, friendly people and exquisite terrain and scenery for all. Yes, and we were there.

Our tour leader, Koos Moorcraft of African Bushcraft and Survival Adventures drilled the concepts of planning, preparation and execution into us upfront, as going away for so long, to the mostly wilderness areas of a foreign country so far away, requires additional effort and delivery. Well, one thing Koos never told us upfront, was the amount of washing, dust, dirt and mud that would need to be washed / removed once home! Well, we are all safely back, with one puncture amongst the convoy, and no serious incidents. I have spent this last week (and this weekend) having my vehicle valet'd (I was not going to attempt it!) by a professional operation in Centurion (who also called my bakkie Die Varkhok!), washing / rewashing kit, tents, toilet cubicles, pots, pans and much more. My wife spent hours on the clothing wash drill, and it finely seems we are there! But, nevertheless, we will be back and now plan to do the Cunene to Congo route in 2 years time. More on this trip will follow once the stories have been written, the 3500+ photographs sorted and the 8 hours of video footage reviewed into a shorter DVD. Watch the press. We will present it at an Enthusiasts Meeting soon!

On the touring scene, the clubs ventures to Zimbabwe in June for another stunning visit to the Hwange area. The planning has been done here and the participants are waiting to go. So are the crew that are heading for the Luderitz / Walvis Bay trip in September. This awesome experience is a few months away and promises to be a great trip. Now, bring on a petrol decrease please.....

I hope that you all had a blessed Easter and a safe school holiday break. With news in Angola via satphone that petrol increased by over R1, our president had resigned, Jacob Zuma had taken presidency and a few other short interludes, we were nearly taken for April Fools. However, on a more serious note, it was a rude awakening to arrive back in SA to more petrol increases and a rate hike again. Will it ever stop? It is definitely going to cause a slow down in our 4x4 industry, especially when it comes to travel. Bliss was the R4.00 a litre for petrol in Angola! Diesel even less!

On the local scene, as the winter starts to stick its head out, it is nearing show time. Be sure you attend the many shows on offer and find some new goodies available for that 4x4. Once you have them, make sure you know how to use them. If you are in need of training, then contact us. As a forewarning, we have a GPS Software Course and a full blown GPS Course at the end of May for those interested, as well as public Fire Fighting for Campers workshop, which focuses on the Family Unit, even the kids. It is highly entertaining and educational, and is low cost, so make sure



you enquire about it if you live in Gauteng. This workshop will be run in May as well. Send me an email if I must put you on the invite list.

The Bridgestone Challenge heads down to Swaziland for the Annual Reg Raid, and promises to be another exciting event in 2 weeks time, with a full house again. The competition reaches its halfway mark this year and will be a tough battle for the winning spot this year with the many clubs participating. Get the latest results and stories in the monthly editions of the SA 4x4.

Our club at a national level celebrates its 10th year this year, and the Gauteng and Cape based clubs will be meeting at the Gariiep Dam near Colesberg in May for a long weekend chill out and social, to celebrate this milestone. Each club will taking a large contingent of people to this celebration, and will enjoy the festivities on offer that weekend.

Still very slow news on the legislative side re the Unit Standards and the Self Regulation. We are watching this closely. There are still many questions to be raised and one of the newer ones raising its head is the one of regulating professional operators. That is both locally and across the borders (SA and other neighbouring countries' operators). There have been issues about long convoys, behaviour of caravan brigades, et al arising in press and emails, and we are now aware that any operator (clubs too I am told!) moving into or through Namibia, needs a permit of operation. Well, we legally apply for our radio licences for all our trips, and thus will legally apply for our permits if that may be the case.

OK, time to get this edition out and rolling, as it is almost 2 weeks overdue. My life is almost back to normal again, and the communications will start flowing soon again. There will be another great Outdoor Enthusiasts Meeting in May, this time at the newly launched 4x4 Megaworld shop in Edenvale – bigger and better and most impressive. So ensure you catch your invite early May. Great prizes and speakers on offer again.

Make sure you enter the Munroe Shock Absorber Competition in the newsletter!

Enjoy, stay safe and abide by the law!

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



Angola 2008 – Pick n Pay kiddies rod, no bait, only lure – Let's FISH!



Calendar of Interesting Events

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

Date	Event	Venue
25-28 April	Womans Show	Sandton Convention Centre
26-28 April	Gauteng Motor Show	Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit
1-4 May	Toys for Boys	NASREC
9-11 May	Aim Shooter Show	NASREC
10-11 May	LA Sport Products in Action Show	Capital Park, Pretoria
13-16 May	NAMPO Show	Nampo Park, Bothaville, Free State
5-6 June	Outdoor & leisure Expo (4x4ATV)	Pretoria Moot
13- 16 June	Kyalami Outdoor Show	Kyalami Raceway
25-27 July	Bundu Expo	Tshwane Events Centre (Pretoria Showgrounds)
27 August – 7 September	Pretoria Show	Pretoria Showgrounds
29-31 August	Getaway Show	Coca Cola Dome, Northgate
2-5 October	Rust de Winter Jamboree	Rust de Winter

LA SPORT Products in Action Show - 10 – 11 May 2008

The LA Sport Products in Action Shows have become a fixture on the annual 4x4 calendar, and with the success achieved in 2007 we hereby take great pleasure in inviting all exhibitors to participate in an even bigger and better show program in 2008.

The LA Sport Products in Action Show will be taking place on the second weekend in May, and as you know, our show focuses on activities, events and product demonstrations for the 4x4, outdoor and destinations market. The main focus will be on the South African consumer living in Gauteng and surrounding areas.

Our venue, LA Sport 4x4 Action Track, situated in the centre of Pretoria , is a well known and secure venue and the ideal environment for an inter active 4x4 show of this nature. For Motor Dealers this is the ideal place to prospect the potential new client and demonstrate the vehicle's capabilities hands on.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE READY FOR THIS SHOW THAT TAKES PLACE ON THE 10th AND 11th OF MAY 2008 IN PRETORIA !

The LA Sport Products in Action Show is a unique opportunity to expose visitors to new products in that it breaks away from the norm of static exhibitions, enabling visitors to really interact with the products and services being exhibited. This is an experience that exhibitor s and visitors don't easily forget, and past experience has shown that they keep on coming back for more.

Do ensure that when you budget for 2008, you diarise the 10th and 11th of May for the LA Sport Products in Action Show, as this is an opportunity not to be missed. All particulars regarding booking of stands for the Show etc. is available from Head Office. Contact Christo on 012 335 5593 or Tinus on 012 329 4515 <http://www.lasport.co.za/contact.htm>



WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM – Your Serengeti Specialists!

Herewith details regarding the planned tours for Africa proudly presented by www.eco4x4africa.com this year (2008)

2008

- Tour 3 – West Coast Crayfish Tour - 3-9 March
- Tour 4 – Kalahari / Botswana – 21-30 March
- Tour 5 – Namibia – 31 March – 13 April
- Tour 6 – Lion Weekend Coligny – 18-20 April
- Tour 7 - Serengeti Tour - 4 May – 5 June
- Tour 8 – Namibia – Koakoland – 8-22 June
- Tour 9 - Serengeti Tour – 28 June – 27 July
- Tour 10 – Botswana / Moremi & Chobe - 2-14 August
- Tour 11 – Flower Tour West Coast – 16-24 August
- Tour 12 – Kariba Lake Houseboat – 5-15 September
- Tour 13 – Lake Malawi -14-21 September
- Tour 14 – Kalahari / Botswana – 27 September – 5 October
- Tour 15 – Lion Weekend Coligny – 31 October – 2 November
- Tour 16 – Switzerland Expedition – 9-23 November
- Tour 17 - Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 7 Dec – 7 Jan 2009

Tours include Self Drive, Catered, or in the luxury bus we have for specific tours. Contact us immediately for more information, you will not be disappointed.

Alex & Alta - 0825706010 or alex@eco4x4africa.com

January 2008

Hit the Trail – NEWS, FEATURES and the REST...**LATEST FROM LEISURE WHEELS**

Issue 49 - MAY 2008 - LEISURE WHEELS - THE MONTHLY

The May issue of Leisure Wheels is in the bookstores now, again brimful with news and articles that will interest the adventurous motorist. Our cover story in this issue is a report on the new X-Trail, Nissan's popular softroader that has just seen a complete makeover. We took it to Maputo and surrounds to show its mettle. We also report Volkswagen's new compact SUV, and finds that it breaks new ground.

Four-by-fundi Andrew St Pierre White and friends set out find the better of two off-road icons - the Land Rover Defender and the Toyota Land Cruiser 70 SW. There is a winner - but it's close!

Our adventure motoring scribes take readers Egypt to meet up with Kingsley Holgate and his expedition, to Mozambique's extreme westerly route from Pafuri to the Zambezi, and to rustic Ponta Milibangalala in the south of that country.



Does driving in four-wheel drive cost you at the fuel pumps? Our myth-busting team takes to the road to find out. Our featured small town is Loxton in the Northern Cape.

The road test editor looks at the Porsche Cayenne GTS and the Mazda Drifter double cab 4x2, and we discover a wooden motorhome that had travelled from Cape Town to Europe - in 1931!

There's a lot to read in the May 2008 issue of Leisure Wheels. Don't miss it!

COMPETITION

WIN A SET OF FOUR MONROE SHOCK ABSORBERS

Monroe is offering a set of four premium quality shock absorbers worth over R2000 to one lucky newsletter reader. All you have to do is correctly answer the two questions below, and e-mail your answers to promotions@tenneco.com with your contact details and vehicle's year, make & model that you would like shocks for. More Monroe information is available on their website www.monroe.co.za should you require product information to answer the questions.*

QUESTIONS:

- 1) *What are the three off-road sub-brands that Monroe make called?*
- 2) *Which of these sub-brands is a unique triple-tube, 9-way adjustable shock?*

Closing date is Friday 30 May 2008

Rules:

- **Prizes may not be exchanged for cash.**
- **Prizes will only be taken out of local stock applications as per the current South African catalogue – no special orders.**
- **If the prize selected is an imported unit and it is out of stock, there could be a waiting period of four to 12 weeks before the prize can be despatched.**
- **No Tenneco employee or family member may enter.**
- **The organizers decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.**
- **The prize winner will be announced at a 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng) Function and posted in this newsletter.**

*** Value worked out at average suggested retail pricing**

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE – LION RESEARCH PROJECT NEEDS HELP

Hi all 4x4 community members, as you are aware you don't often receive email updates, but I thought maybe it's time that we stand together, and see if we cannot assist this really worthwhile conservation effort.

We are over 3000 members at www.4x4community.co.za, the site has always been free to the members, and always will be free to the members. So instead of having to pay a membership to belong to the fantastic community at <http://www.4x4community.co.za>, why not dig into your pocket a bit and make a donation to this cause?



3000 members, if half of that to donate just R50 we can put together R75,000! That is not small change, and an amount that can really make a difference. Please note your donations here if you wish: <http://www.4x4community.com/forum/showthread.php?t=17805>

Also visit the link above, and view the pictures of the vehicles that they are currently using, then you will understand the urgency of this fundraiser.

(Note, the money is being collected by the Land Cruiser Club SA).

The Desert Lion Project is a genuine conservation effort to protect and nurture the Namibian desert lions for future generations. To save them from extinction! There's no fancy offices and gravy train. These people live on a shoestring with the little support that they get from private individuals. The project is run using a very old clapped out Hilux with parts missing and a few Landrover panels rivitted on <http://www.desertlion.info/>

The Land Cruiser Club of Southern Africa (LCCSA) have taken the initiative to raise funds to buy them a replacement double cab Cruiser. We have further arranged with the WWF for a donation of \$35 000 to the project provided we produce the goods and meet our obligation. Toyota SA will provide R15 000 with a little smallprint

Up to yesterday we had raised in the region of R41 000 by way of member donations and online auctions. As only one example, I donated a bottle opener for auction and it went for R7000! There have been many similar fantastic bids. Each individual active member had voluntarily undertaken to pay in a minimum donation R150 but most have been donating much more than that. (Big thankyou to Yspen/Bennie for arranging the auctions)

Last night the Cape members held an auction at the premises of R&D Offroad and raised a further R18 000+. Only 25 of us there but the guys dug deep.

An indication of the generosity: A plastic fork from Steers that was in my bakkie and accidently ended up on the bidding table got auctioned for R100 then auctioned a second time for R600. (Big thank you to Johan Tyres for both bids)

This the kind of spirit and generosity that is being shown to a fantastic cause that will help preserve the desert lions for future generations. But we are still far from our goal of funding the vehicle

If you or your company/business would like to contribute to this cause, any amount from R1-00 to infinity, you can make your donation here:

Land Cruiser Club - SA
Standard Bank of SA Ltd
Acc No: 022719997
Branch: Sandton
Branch code: 019205
Swift Code: SBZAZAJJ
For Beneficiary/Recipient information please enter DLP- 4x4Com

Then send proof of payment to rbergh @ global.co.za and feel free to post your donation in this thread so we can see your generosity)



I challenge you!

LET'S SHOW THAT THE 4X4 COMMUNITY IS A CARING COMMUNITY Our forum will get exposure and our combined total contribution will be acknowledged and published

THEN, THE UPDATE – WE STILL NEED MORE DONATIONS!

As you may, or may not know, the LCCSA have embarked on an ambitious project to raise funds to buy a Land Cruiser vehicle for Dr Flip Stander, head of the Desert Lion Conservation Project in Namibia This initiative is being supported by the WWF, and Toyota SA, while the 4x4 Community has also joined in with us on this project.

We have had enthusiastic participation and contributions to this project from our members thus far. We have raised R 75 000 for this project to date, but our target is to raise R 120 000 + by end of March 2008. This ensures that we can buy a well equipped vehicle (LC 79 Double Cab EFI) for this project.

Please visit the forum at Desert Lion Funding for more information and detail of how to contribute.

As you may know, we have a strong commitment to not spam our members every now and then with e-mails. However, as we are nearing the target date, and to make sure all our members who might wish to contribute are aware of this project, we took the liberty of sending you this note to inform you of the project.

Best Cruiser-regards
LCCSA DLP Co-ordinators

NEW 4x4 TRAIL & FACILITIES

Bonani has a wide variety of 4x4 routes, that add up to a route total of 50 kilometres. From mountainous terrain to dongas or river routes, we will give you the ultimate obstacle and manoeuvring challenge, which only the soul of true African soil can offer. The routes vary in difficulty and are rated from grade three, suitable for any vehicle with low range gears, to grade five for more technical driving.

The off road routes also stretch beyond the boundaries of the game farm ,with a guided tour, that only Jaro and his crew can uphold, you can take up to a two hundred kilometre return route covering the Drakensberg mountains, the valley, breathing in all the overwhelming views of this area. This is a great step toward environmentally friendly practice, for anyone who has the calling inner voice of free Spirit Africa. We have abundant wildlife, 17 different species of game. About 365 different birds species. Wonderful trails going up the mountain with superb scenery. Going down the mountain you will be looking at a mini Serengeti.

We offer a variety of getaway packages to suit your every need, contact us for more information or to make a booking.

- 4x4 Routes vary in difficulty from 3/5 to 5/5. / Roetes varieer van 3/5 tot 5/5
- Variety of routes - donga, mountain and river drives. / Verskeidenheid roetes - dongas, bergagtig en rivier roetes.
- All routes are scenic with an abundance of wildlife. / Alle roetes is skouspelagtig en beskik oor oorvloed wild en natuurskoon.



- Trail guides available on request. / Roetegidse beskikbaar op aanvraag.
- Nearest fuel is available 30km from Bonani. / Naaste brandstof is 30km van Bonani.
- GPS Co-ordinates / Koördinate: Turn off to farm / Plaas afdraai: S28 03 502 ; E29 49 640
- Bonani Lodge: S28 04 609 ; E29 49 368
- Track can accommodate up to 12 vehicles. / Roetes kan gemaklik tot 12 voertuie akkomodeer.
- Track graded by Wheel magazine. / Roetes gegradeer deur Wiel tydskrif.
- Environmentally friendly practices are in place. / Omgewingsvriendelike gebruike is in plek.
- The track is good all year round, with a big variance in obstacles. / Roetes en bane is reg deur die jaar begaanbaar en beskik oor 'n verskeidenheid hindernisse.
- Washing facilities and workshop available on the farm. / Voertuig was fasiliteite en werkwinkel beskikbaar op die plaas.
- Camping, Catering and self catering facilities available. / Kampeerterrein sowel as selfsorg - eenhede en spyseniering is beskikbaar.
- Recovery support available. / Herwinningsdiens van 4x4 voertuie is beskikbaar.

Tel : 034 351 1687 Fax : 034 351 1687 Cell : 082 820 8821 P.O Box 327 Dannhauser 3080

Visit our web site on : www.bonanisafaris.com

NEWS FROM BHEJANE

Goodday Folks

Well, the festive season has come and gone and we hope you are all keeping well since you last heard from us. Here, at Bhejane, it's all systems go again as we start the new season. News is that we have moved our base of operations from Gauteng down to the Southern Cape but, as most of you know, our offices are in the vehicles that we happen to be driving at the time.

Hope you all saw the wonderful article that appeared in Drive Out and Wegry magazine in December about our exciting new day trip in the [Knysna forest](#). This new excursion has taken off beyond our wildest expectations and, to date, 500 people have explored the forest with us. The following edition of Drive Out included a letter from one of our clients, affectionately known as Lost Shepherd, who raved about his visit.

Douwe has just returned from the [Central Kalahari and Kgalikgadi Transfrontier Park](#) with some breathtaking photographs of the very green Kalahari. We will be sharing some of these pictures with you in our next newsletter. Some very exciting moments were had with some close encounters of the black-maned kind.

Frank, Vermaak and John are off to Botswana today and looking forward to the muddy plains of Magadigadi, the swollen rivers feeding the swamps and Vic Falls at its thunderous best.

Sadly for you - and happily for us - both June and July's standard [Botswana trips](#) are fully booked but for those of you with lots of adventurous friends, we are happy to accommodate private group bookings. There are also still a few spaces available in the July school holidays on the [Mozambique "Big Game to Coral Coast"](#) tour.

We are starting to feel the pinch of winter down here in the Southern Cape which usually means lots of frozen waterfalls and potential early snowfalls up in the [Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho](#). A word of warning the tarring of [Sani Pass](#) is going ahead, so join us for this exceptional



experience before anyone and everyone can do it in a Golf. For those of you joining us on tours into Botswana and [Baviaanskloof](#) shortly, please drive safely and we look forward to seeing you.

Yours in everything adventurous

The Bhejane Team

3 PROVINCES - 2 LONG WEEKENDS!!!!

Moenie dit misloop nie.

2 Langnaweke: 25-28April en 30April-5Mei '08.

4 Verskillende roetes

4x4 (3 Provinsies- en Witkruisarend roete),

Slagvelde, geskiedenis (museum, dieretuin en bakoondbrood)

Bespreek al u aandetes en kom kuier om die kampvuur.

Bring u kampstoele saam

Skakel: Ronel 082 785 8002

Bespreek asseblief gou! Die datums van 25-28April en 30April-5Mei '08 is georganiseerde naweke waarin ons nie net die 3 Provinsies roete alleen aanbied nie. Ons doen ook die Roodedraai Slagveldroete, die Witkruisarend roete en die Slagveldroete na Amajuba, die Tonnel, ens. Die Amajuba roete sal deur openbare grondpaaie en teerpaaië beweeg. Nie geskik vir quads nie.

Die Wildkamproete is ingesluit by die ekstra roetes, daarom betaal u nie apart daarvoor nie, tensy u dit alleen wil doen. Let Wel: Beide naweke is fondsinsamelingsprojekte vir die Christelike Privaatskool. Dit belooft om baie interessant te wees. Daar is Kompetissies en pryse en ons gee T-hemde weg.

Die volgende akkomodasie is nog beskikbaar:

- Kampering @ R80 p.nag vir die eerste 2 persone plus R10 p.p.ekstra tot 'n maks. van 6 persone per staanplek. 'n Pragtige kampterrein in die ongerepte natuur, privaat, aan die voet van kranse en langs 'n kabbelende waterstroom.
- Woonstel @ R150 p.p.p.nag. Selfsorg en toegrus met breekware, yskas, stoof, mikrogolf, handoeke en beddegoed.
- Sanbonani Gastehuis @ R150p.p.p.nag. Amper volgeboek. Pragtige plaashuis - 8km buite Volksrust op die Vredepad halfpad op pad na 3 Provinsies. Selfsorg en toegerus soos woonstelle.
- Akkomodasie in Volksrust - skakel my indien u 'n lys van gastehuse verlang. Bespreek gou voordat die naweke volgeboek is.

KINGSLEY HITS MOROCCO

Dear Alan

Kingsley Holgate and his crew write to us from Morocco... "Casablanca – what a romantic, exciting name. Even more exciting though is the good news we receive on parking our Landies outside the hotel: one of our sponsors, British Airways, is going to fly us home for a short break! Thoughts of family, friends, boerewors, braais and hot showers are suddenly softening our hardcore adventurous spirits! Once home all our imaginings are fulfilled and when the time comes it's hard to pull away and head back to Casablanca. But the adventure must continue!

To meet us at the airport is our new Moroccan expedition interpreter and expedition member – a 20-year-old boereuseun from Pretoria who speaks excellent Moroccan Arabic! Back in our



Landies, we ease into the adventure by cruising Casablanca's playground, the beachfront Corniche of Ain Diab, famous for its restaurants and nightclubs. But we're not here for play. We're here to witness healing, African style. At the western limit of the beachfront pilgrims gather at low tide to be healed. Young girls who are having difficulty in falling pregnant also come here. They stand naked in the Atlantic and let seven waves crash against their bodies as the wind blows cold from Europe.

The wind also blows us on our way... We head towards the Hassan II Mosque. Built on the sea bed with water on three sides, the mosque is visible for hundreds of kilometres out to sea and a 32km visible laser beam points from the top of the minaret towards Mecca.

Making our way up the coast of Morocco, we find ourselves hugging the Atlantic Coast on the road to Tangier. It reminds us a bit of South Africa's Cape Peninsula. At times we are literally on the outside edge, our Landies sometimes just a metre from the top of steep cliffs plunging down into the ocean.

It's been nine months since we left the Cape of Good Hope, the most South Westerly point of the continent, and now we're at the most North Westerly Cape. Outside the Cape Spartel lighthouse we hold up the Zulu calabash that's carrying cold South Atlantic water from the Cape of Good Hope. If we're successful, we'll return to empty it back at the Cape of Good Hope, but that's still several months and 13 countries away..."

KNP TEAM ARREST POACHING SYNDICATE

The Kruger National Park (KNP) Managing Executive Dr Bandile Mkhize today praised the quick reaction of a Kruger National Park (KNP) anti-poaching team which arrested three suspected rhino poachers and confiscated two rifles and four freshly harvested rhino horns earlier this week. "We are proud of the combined team made up of Tshokwane Rangers, SANParks Corporate Investigation Services (CIS) and SANParks Air Services who all contributed to the successful arrest of these poachers," he said.

A routine ranger patrol from Tshokwane found suspicious tracks while patrolling an area to the South East of the well-known picnic site on Saturday March 22, 2008. Shortly after the rangers found the tracks, gunfire was heard and the field rangers reported this. Shortly after this discovery was made, a team from CIS flew into the area by helicopter and, combined with the Tshokwane rangers, this team quickly found the poachers, which lead to the arrest. The carcasses of two white rhino cows were pointed out by the suspects and further investigation showed that these animals had been shot earlier that day.

Footprints in the area suggested the presence of a calf, the carcass of which was found on Sunday March 23, 2008. The calf had been killed by lions.

SCHOOLS TO SCORE 2010 HOLIDAY?

The National Education Department is proposing a five-week long school break during the 2010 Soccer World Cup to avoid pupil and teacher absenteeism and a chaotic transport system, the Daily Dispatch Online reported on Wednesday. A proposed school calendar for South African public schools has been gazetted and posted on the department's website in the hope of getting comments from interested parties.



The calendar deviates from the usual three to four weeks mid-year break in June/July and will run from 10 June to 12 July 2010. It will result in pupils enjoying a longer break compared to previous years as it amounts to 33 days, including weekends and one public holiday.

Chief director responsible for national and provincial co-ordination Sihle Mlambo said the department had drawn up the proposal after receiving written requests from the National Transport Department and hospitality stakeholders to extend school holidays over the World Cup period. "You can imagine if schools are open during that period. In the written requests, the department was asked to consider things like infrastructure, absenteeism and transportation issues."

Mlambo said that, with the influx of thousands of tourists into the country impacting on the hospitality and transport industry for the major event, it would only be sensible to extend the break.

ASTRONOMY OBSERVING TIPS

For urban and suburban dwellers, practicing binocular astronomy can sometimes be discouraging because of the lack of faint marker stars to help locate deep sky objects. Right now, early evening dark skies are the perfect opportunity to spot the brightest star in the night sky - Sirius - and let it lead you on to some deep sky gems! So print off this article, grab your binoculars and a good friend and get outside!

Just after sky dark, head outside and look basically south for the "Scorching One". Even if you don't use binoculars, this 8.6 distant light year beauty sparkles and twinkles like a true diamond. Even though it's only the atmosphere which causes the effect, Sirius' beauty has been noted throughout ancient history in both culture and mythology. Small wonder, it's twice as large as our own Sun and 25 times more luminous! One of the earliest star charts done by Ptolemy recorded Sirius' position and in 1676 Edmund Halley noted its movement. While today we understand that stars with large proper motion mean they are closer to us than further away, it was definitely an eye-opening experience for early astronomers.

Now, open your eyes wide by using binoculars of any size and center on Sirius. Move slowly south about one average binocular field until you see a compression of stars. Congratulations! You've just spotted Messier Object 41. As incredible as it may seem, this bright cluster of stars may have also been noticed by Aristotle as far back as 325 BC... without modern optics! Spanning about 25 light years across, there are about 100 stars which are true members of the cluster. If you thought Sirius was bright, then take a close look for a reddish central star. It's 280 times brighter yet than Sirius! Thank heavens it's about 2,300 light years away or there would be no such thing as a "dark sky".

Now head back to Sirius and let's take a hop Northeast just a little more than two binocular fields. Do you see that small heart-shaped collection of stars? It's Messier Object 50. Although this galactic cluster contains about twice as many stars as M41, they are so faint they are difficult to see from light polluted skies. If you have larger binoculars, you can probably even spot some color differences between members.

Let's get Sirius again. This time we're headed almost due east about another two binocular fields. Messier Object 47 is quite bright by comparison, and with good reason; it's much closer than the other two clusters. This time we're only looking about 1,600 light years away. Like its other two star-studded companions, it's about the same age, but has fewer stars. This particular cluster



curiosity was an instance where Charles Messier messed up. He recorded its position wrong! For now? Have a look around. These bright clusters are easily seen from most locations and all you have to do is...

Get Sirius!

WANT TO JOIN US?

We plan a 4 x 4 trip from the 24 August 2008 to 23 September 2008 - (31 Days) into Africa including climbing Kilimanjaro. We are at these stage three vehicles and five persons and looking for one more vehicle and nine more people to go with. Please note this is a once off trip for most of us although Johan has done it once before. We are not commercial tour operators, therefore all costs is for the trip.

In short our planning is as follows:

From South Africa we go to Mozambique where we will scuba dive and snorkel, then Malawi where we do some more diving and snorkelling in Malawi Lake. Tanzania is next where some will take on Kilimanjaro and the rest will do sightseeing of the country with visits to Dar es Salaam (if required). We then start the road back home, but the fun is not over yet. Through Zambia to Lake Kariba and Victoria Falls where we will do some white river rafting and bungee jumping for the brave. A sunset cruise on the Okavango Delta in Botswana to give us a final taste of Africa, and then home with memories that will last forever.

Africa 2008 will consist of four teams. Each team must consist of one vehicle (4x4) with four people (recommended). It should be kept in mind that the costs are based on four people - the less people per vehicle, the higher the cost will be. Each team vehicle will be supplied by one of the team members at his or her own costs. It will also be his or her responsibility to fill their vehicles with four people. It might be that one team gets more than four people for our adventure, they can then negotiate with other teams who are short of people to fill their vehicles. The reason for only four persons per vehicle is that it is 12000km and to be crammed in is strongly not recommended.

All members must have a passport, SA driver's license and international licenses as everybody must help with the driving.

The estimated cost per person is ± R 20 000.00. Please note this cost will be finalized by 1 July 2008 as it is based on the current Rand / US Dollar exchange rate, diesel/petrol price, ferry crossings prices, road taxes, border costs and Kilimanjaro costs which are included in the above price. **This cost is based on four persons per vehicle.**

The above amount will include the following:

Diesel, Road Tax, Ferry crossings, Food, Border costs, Diving, Snorkeling, White river rafting, Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam, Sunset cruise, Game viewing Sawuti, Visas, Carnet de Passage

The above amount does not include the following:

Booze, Clothing, Clothing for Kilimanjaro, Snacks, Unforeseen breaking of vehicle, Medical expenses / insurance, International license.

For complete details contact Louis at 083 283 7540, e-mail louis@ljr.co.za or Johan at 083 225 5229, e-mail jjroets@mweb.co.za



NEW PASSENGER VEHICLE MARKET UNDER PRESSURE

The South African new vehicle market continued its decline in February, recording 50 523 sales - a 13.5% drop when compared to the same month last year. This is according to the latest statistics released by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers (Naamsa) and Associated Motor Holdings (AMH).

Brand Pretorius, chairman of McCarthy Motor Holdings said that especially the new passenger vehicle market remains under pressure.

“Despite numerous aggressive marketing sales campaigns by vehicle manufacturers, importers and dealers, new car sales in February showed a decline of 10.7% on January 2008, and 16.5% on sales recorded in February last year,” said Pretorius. A total of 30 578 passenger vehicle sales were reported during February.

Pretorius said that the propensity to buy is still being undermined by negative consumer sentiment brought about by a number of factors. This includes some concern regarding South Africa’s political and macro-economic prospects, the power shortage, high levels of personal debt and the fear of another interest rate increase.

These factors are also having a negative impact on the Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) market, as evidenced by the decline in sales of 10.7% compared to sales in February 2007. A total of 16 716 units were sold in this segment of the market during February.

“On the positive side, higher levels of capital expenditure linked to infrastructure development projects, continue to boost both the medium and heavy commercial segments of the market,” said Pretorius.

Sales in the Medium Heavy Commercial (MCV) segment increased by 2.2% in comparison to those recorded in February 2007, to conclude the month on 1 262 units. Significant growth of 19.8% was recorded in the Heavy Commercial Vehicle (HCV) segment, and a total of 1 967 units were sold in this portion of the market.

On a year to date basis total vehicle sales have declined by 12% to 102 647 units which, should the current trend continue, result in a market just short of 550 000 vehicles. New vehicle sales peaked in 2006 with a total of 714 325 units.

“I believe that we will see single digit month-on-month sales decline percentages from April and onwards. The Minister of Finance’s positive Budget speech inspired confidence, electricity blackouts are occurring less frequently and hopefully the prime lending rate will remain stable,” said Pretorius.

“I therefore remain confident that our original market forecast for 2008, namely 634 000 units, should materialise.”

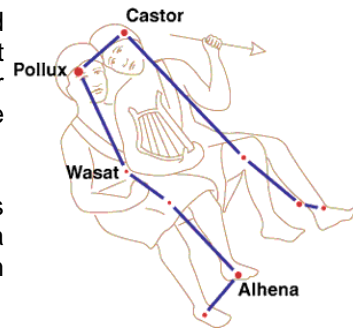
ISSUED BY WILKEN COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

GEMINI, THE TWINS

Gemini is easy to find as it glides high overhead, above and to the side of Orion. It's two brightest stars — Castor and Pollux — represent the mythological twins brothers of Helen of Troy.



Many cultures have seen two humans in this star pattern — marked by two roughly parallel lines of stars capped by two of the brightest stars in our night sky. But the legend that endures is that of Castor and Pollux. Gemini's two brightest stars bear the names of the twins.



Pollux is the brighter of the twins. It's an orange-giant star that's about 35 light-years from Earth. Castor consists of six stars — a cosmic sextet locked in a gravitational ballet. This crowded system lies about 50 light-years from Earth.

OFFROAD AT GOLDEN GATE HIGHLANDS NP????

Organised to raise funds for SANParks conservation projects, the birding weekend will also be an official census of birds in the park. For adventurous types there will be a chance to go hiking, horseback riding or off-roading on non-public routes (own 4x4 required).

Date: 18-20 April - **Cost:** From R1 150 for two (includes dinner).
Contact Kevin on 051-422-4889 or 083-406-6148

PATROL GETS MORE OF EVERYTHING FOR 2008

By Dave Abrahams

Nissan's Patrol bakkie has been updated for 2008 with more of everything - more power, more comfort and more options – but it's still a basic, ultra-rugged 4x4 workhorse, albeit a rather expensive one. Let's start with "more power": Nissan has finally bolted a blower on to its proven 4.2-litre, straight-six diesel engine – but it's done it properly, with common-rail fuel injection and a small but efficient intercooler, which is the reason for that little "power bulge" on the bonnet.

Strange, then, that maximum power is up only 5kW, from 85kW at 4000rpm to 90kW at 3600rpm, while torque has improved from 264Nm to 282Nm at the same 2000rpm. But if it wasn't for the intercooler and the "TD" logos on the doors I wouldn't have thought it was turbocharged at all. There's no turbo lag whatsoever; the power builds with a mighty roar as the rev-counter needle climbs (quite slowly) towards 4000.

The torque curve is flat – it seems to start at about 1200rpm and from 1800rpm on the big six is practically unstoppable, although above 4000rpm all it makes is more noise. All in all, it's practically ideal for what the Patrol is designed for - getting down and dirty on farms, game drives, building sites and deep in the bush – and the new Patrol is rated to tow 750kg unbraked and a whopping 2500kg (a ton more than before!) with trailer brakes.

The rest of the drive train is much the same: rugged, basic and all mechanical - no electricrky to go wrong 3000km from the nearest dealership. A very positive five-speed manual gearbox with a rather long throw leads to a transfer case offering two or all-wheel drive and low range by shifting a second gear lever.

There are no differential locks; the rear axle has a limited-slip differential. All-wheel drive can be engaged "on the fly" at up to 60km/h but low range requires a stop – which is when you get out to lock the (manual) front hubs. The rear suspension uses conventional leaf springs – it needs them to carry the Patrol's advertised 1125 kg payload – but the front rides on an unusual arrangement with a live axle on coil-over shocks and long, very rugged-looking, locating arms.



It makes the front of the vehicle a little bouncy on rugged terrain but the payoff in ride comfort on tar is impressive. The Patrol is awe-inspiringly competent off-road and remarkably easy to handle on rough ground. The power-assisted steering is a little vague but there's no bump steer and the limited-slip differential means you always have *some* traction as long as at least one rear wheel is on the ground.

On the launch drive the Patrols took us up the worst the De Rust 4x4 trail could throw at us, grumbling good-naturedly up rocky gulleys and sandy washaways in the low-range crawler gear that feels like it could just as easily take you up the side of a house - all you gotta do is stomp it and steer.

With approach and departure angles of 42 and 30 degrees respectively you'd have to do something silly to get stuck. Nissan has finally abandoned any pretence of seating three in the big cab – the massive transmission tunnel simply doesn't allow for it. The new Patrol has two deep, luxuriously padded bucket seats upholstered in a velour-like material it calls moquette - and there are real carpets on the floor.

The fascia may be low-rent plastic but it's very solid and the comprehensive instrument panel has dials for speed and revs (don't let anybody tell you a rev-counter is unnecessary in a low-revving diesel), a digital clock and tripmeter and the usual idiot lights – including a green Monopoly car that tells you all the wheels are driving.

The steering column can be adjusted for height but not reach, the seats fore and aft, but that's it. There's a double-depth space in the centre stack for a sound system – two speakers and their wiring are already installed – above the three straightforward rotating knobs that orchestrate the basic (I seem to be using that word a lot in this write-up) but remarkably effective aircon.

An unexpected touch of luxury is provided by electric windows and central locking. At first glance the interior is very plain but it's all there and it all works.

Safari package

There are cupholders, big pockets in the doors, lidded storage under the new centre armrest and plenty of space behind the seat for outer clothing, tools, camera bags – all the junk that accumulates in a working vehicle.

And this is very much a working vehicle so Nissan has put together what it calls the Safari package, consisting of:

- Replacement steel front bumper with winch box – (winch optional)
- Double spotlights
- Triple roll bar
- Side steps
- Safari snorkel
- Double-skinned, rubberised load box.
- Double toolbox
- Heavy-duty rear bumper with spare wheel carrier

The kit adds R32 000 to the R299 895 sticker price of the Patrol – or you can mix and match the components as you need them for your job. There's also a more specialised set of rails and seats to convert the Patrol into a game-viewing vehicle.



The last item moves the spare wheel out of the load box and the driver's eye-line, to the rear bumper as on a Second World War Jeep. There's no space for the spare in the conventional position under the chassis; it's taken up by two huge fuel tanks – one of 95 litres, the other 80.

Together they hold a wallet-busting 170 litres of diesel - enough, says Nissan, to take you 1300km on tar and 1100km on gravel. Nissan SA general manager for light commercial vehicles, Chris Schell said: "The Nissan Patrol Pickup is a heavy-duty 4x4 with no compromises; the uprated engine provides additional power, responsiveness and versatility in various conditions.

"But comfort and convenience are very strong features of the Patrol Pickup, especially with the latest enhancements." The Patrol Pickup costs R299 895 and comes with a three-year or 100 000km warranty; service intervals are 7500km.

OFF THE BEATON TRACK

Hello Valued Guests and loyal friends

I cannot believe that it is already the Easter Weekend and four months since our last newsletter. I hope that the year has been kind to you so far. Once again, thank you all so much for your continued support, we sincerely appreciate it. We also look forward to the first timers whom we will be meeting shortly.

I am writing from a cold, overcast and windy Botswana. It seems all the bad weather of in SA of late has come up this way and is heralding the early arrival of winter, although I am sure we will have a few more hot spells before that happens.

We had excellent rains up to January (420mm) in total, but since then it's been mostly dry with the odd shower now and then. Tuli Wilderness Trails (TWT) entered the New Year with a bang! Molema Dam, as we call it, broke. It was so full from all the rain and the wall was struggling to hold back the water. This, combined with the continual mud bathing of elephants on the weak point of the wall, eventually led to all the water finding its way to the Limpopo River.

Thanks to Jannie of Talana farms and his bulldozer, the dam has now been repaired. All we need now is some more good rain to fill it up again. I hope this happens otherwise it will have no water for the rest of the year.

The rain did wonders for the veld, I have never seen so much grass here since we started TWT. This, in turn, attracted a lot of grazers, especially Zebra, Wildebeest, Eland and of course Elephant. Even now it is not uncommon to see 60 + Zebra grazing on the plains south of Mohave Bush Camp.

All the game in the area is in excellent condition. Elephant love all of the grass. I am sure they are enjoying the change in diet from bark, leaves and roots. A very calm, magnificent bull is being seeing regularly at TWT. He made for a peaceful sunset sighting recently.

With all the thick, seeding grass around, there has been an amazing number of seed eating birds around. Probably the most remarkable species of birds thriving in the grass have been quails. In all the years I've lived in the bush, I have never seen so many quails around. Both the Harlequin and Kurrichane buttonquails are thriving in the thick patches of grass. When you are walking through the grass you frequently flush coveys of them from under virtually under your feet and they generally give you quite a fright. In general, birding has been excellent throughout the



season. Most of the migrants are still here, but are starting to quieten down now as their breeding comes to an end and they prepare to head off on their amazing migrations.

We also often saw Common Flap-Necked Chameleons this summer – usually seen out and about just before rain.

Lion and Cheetah have once again made up most of our predator sightings over the last few months. In February, we had a French couple visiting here who were ending off their self drive tour of Botswana. They spent two nights with us and were fortunate enough to see a young lioness kill a baboon close to Rutt Camp. To see a kill is one thing, but to see a lioness killing a baboon is really unusual. I suspect the lioness was really desperate to eat, probably as a result of difficult hunting in these wet conditions, and being opportunists they are, the lioness grabbed her chance.

One of the best game drives I have ever been on was in January. My son, Joshua and some of his friends were up here for the holidays. Late one afternoon, I joined them for a game drive north of Eagle Rock. The first sighting was of 2 Cheetah lying in the shade of a mustard bush. We watched them for half an hour and they didn't budge. We kept edging closer and were eventually parked ten metres from them. When we left, they just stayed put. After sundowners, as we started heading back to Mohave Bush Camp, we found a beautiful male Lion and his female mate - obviously a mating pair, both in their prime. We followed them for about ten minutes and at times were as close to them as fifteen metres. They led us right through a large breeding herd of Elephant.

It was getting dark, so we decided to leave the cats and pachyderms and head for home. Not five minutes later, a Brown Hyena suddenly appeared cantering, his long shaggy hair bouncing as he ran ahead of us in the headlights. He wasn't with us for very long before he slipped out of sight into the darkness.

To top it all, as we reached Mohave, an Antbear suddenly appeared in front of us. It was totally unfazed by our presence and we watched him for a long while, snooping, listening, smelling and digging for termites. What a drive!

The exciting news is that Mashatu will be releasing a pack of Wild Dogs on the Reserve and we hope that you might then have some sightings of them when you next visit TWT.

The flowing Limpopo River has dropped quite a bit recently. In late January/early February it was in full flood and even the cable car at Pontdrift was closed as the water level was too high. I actually watched the empty cable car crossing over the river during this time. The water level was about thirty centimetres from the bottom of the cable car. Just imagine if there had been people in it . . .next stop Beit Bridge ☺

Mashatu organised a small motor boat to ferry people over the river at this time as Platjan border was also closed. It was quite an adventure crossing by boat, but was quite a mission when you went shopping in SA and had to bring all your goods back over on the boat. Thanks to Mashatu for their help.

Rutt Camp is up again up and ready for the Trails season. We have a number of Trails booked for the winter and I really look them.



Folks, that's about it for now. I won't take up anymore of your time (besides, I've got Writer's Block).

We really look forward to seeing some of you very soon, and some of you in the not so distant future. Take care and thanks again for all your support.

Regards

Craig and the TWT team

Tuli Wilderness Trails

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SA Faxmail: +27 (0) 86 684 8061

Cell: Craig Beaton +267 721 95643

E-mail: beatonwild@mweb.co.za

Website: www.tulitrails.com

GPS NEWS FROM BOLTONS WAREHOUSE

The Garmin website introduces a few new products, as listed:

- The Colorado 300 (a 60CSx which includes some of the Nuvi and Quest features and which has a true 3D view of the terrain, a Digital Elevation Model (DEM))
- The new Nuvi 800 series which appears to be a Nuvi 700 series but in addition to the touch screen has voice recognition. It reacts to the navigator's spoken instructions.
- Garmin Nuvi Phone (a Garmin Cellphone) expected during the latter half of 2008 (possibly as late as November)
- Nuvi 5000 (a big screen Nuvi, 5.2 inch screen)
- A new exciting GPS that is still to be released
- Garmap Africa 2008 (we expect to have a demo sample in the very near future). It is an upgrade of Garmap Southern Africa Street Maps version 1,5.

OWN A MAZDA? HERE IS GOOD NEWS!

It is with great pleasure that we wish to advise that **Scorpion** have been awarded the contract to offer free off-road driver training to the Mazda BT50 owners. This means that **Scorpion** now offers free driver training to both Ford Ranger as well as Mazda BT50 owners. If you know of any Mazda BT50 or Ford Ranger owners, who's vehicle is 6 months old or younger, and who have not yet attended the free training, please ask them to contact me ☺

Kind regards

Vivian Dicks - General Manager

Office Contact Numbers : 011-468 1592 or 079 882 6659

Fax2e-mail: 0866309219

WANT DISCOUNT AT PB ENTERPRISES?????

For the most professional fitments of dual battery systems - in future, anyone who wants to claim the discount offered to newsletter readers, they must please bring me a copy of this newsletter - we keep track of all club members and newsletter subscribers.

Best regards,

Pieter Barnard

P. B. Enterprises cc

www.pbeproducts.co.za



NAVIGATORS FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE ADVENTURES

Navigators specialises in informative and relaxed small-group touring. Whether you're a seasoned and well-travelled adventurer or new to the 4x4 lifestyle, join our guided self-drive tours to make new friends, discover exciting destinations in the company of like-minded enthusiasts, and experience the adventure and sense of accomplishment of confidently meeting the challenges of self sufficient travel in Africa. Read more below on our featured tours for the coming months:

Koakoveld "Desert Elephants & Himba" - 14 Nights (Windhoek to Twyfelfontein)

Tour Dates: 11 – 24 May 2008

Tour Dates: 8 – 21 June 2008

Traverse the domain of the desert-dwelling elephants and giraffe, free-ranging black rhino, and the fascinating pastoral-nomadic Himba people. Driving challenges include the 'dust-holes' of the Khowarib Schlucht, and the steep rocky slopes of the 'infamous' Van Zyl's Pass. Twyfelfontein in the south, with its petroglyphs and geological formations, is further attraction. But it is the stunning scenery, solitude and unrivalled wilderness atmosphere of this harsh and starkly beautiful region that calls to the adventurer and explorer in each of us! (Maximum 6 vehicles.)

Getaway 'Readers Tour' to Zambia – 19 Nights (Livingstone to Mfuwe)

Tour Dates: 1 – 18 August 2008

Following our 'Readers Tour' with Getaway Magazine to the Koakoveld in 2007, we have again joined forces with them to offer well-equipped travellers another unique adventure. Join Chris and Getaway photojournalist Jazz Kuschke on a tour to Zambia during August 2008. This varied and relaxed expedition focuses on Kasanka National Park, the Bangweulu Wetlands, North Luangwa and Luambe NP. The route includes Kundalila Falls, Lavushi Manda National Park, Kaphisha Hot Springs and Shiwa Ng'andu. The tour ends near South Luangwa. (Maximum 6 vehicles)

Khaudum & Caprivi: "Remote Namibia" – 12 Nights (Windhoek to Katima)

Tour Dates: 27 September – 8 October 2008

Where elephant herds congregate; stronghold of the roan antelope; home to Namibia's 2nd largest lion population, hyena and remaining packs of wild dog... Khaudum's deep-sand driving and wilderness atmosphere is a great way to open your account on this adventurous tour to some of Namibia's more remote game parks. Follow this up with the abundant wildlife, prolific birdlife and exciting driving challenges in the eastern Caprivi, and you'll understand why our expedition to discover the secrets of Namibian Bushmanland and Caprivi regions is a favourite on our annual touring calendar (Maximum 6 vehicles.)

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

(March 2007)



Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

CALL FOR TYRE PRESSURE MONITORS TO BECOME STANDARD

SA's leading road safety organisations have warned that underinflated tyres will – again – be deadly during the coming Easter holiday and have explained the correct way to check them. As many as 13 percent of road accidents can be linked to burst tyres so both South Africa's Road Safety Foundation and ER24 paramedics will use real-time tyre-pressure sensors while patrolling the dangerous Van Reenen's pass between Johannesburg and Durban during the coming Easter weekend.

Gideon Joubert, distributor of Tyredog pressure sensors, said: "Drivers must remember that their tyres slowly deflate as they travel from the Highveld to the denser air pressures of the coast. "Regular checks on cool tyres are not always possible on long journeys, which is why we recommend real-time pressure sensors, especially for Gauteng drivers using the N3 to kwaZulu-Natal. The sad fact is that at least two out of 10 of these drivers will use this road on dangerously soft tyres."

He cited a recent survey by the Road Safety Foundation that showed almost 20 percent of randomly tested vehicles in Gauteng were driving on one or more under-inflated tyres. The Bridgestone-sponsored survey was part of a global road safety campaign, "Think Before You Drive", that tested tyre pressures in corporate car parks.

Phillip Hull, co-founder of the Road Safety Foundation, said 19 percent of cars tested had at least one tyre pumped to less than 1.8 bar and four percent had tyres dangerously deflated to below 1.5 bar.

Hull, whose foundation won the 2008 NedBank-Car magazine award for SA's best road-safety initiative, said 1.8 bar was "hazardous", 1.5 bar was "extremely hazardous". "The scariest part is that under-inflated tyres seem to be properly inflated and many drivers still consider a kick against such tyre to be a sufficient safety check."

He added that the Road Safety Foundation was testing the latest real time-tyre pressure sensors with the view that they should become cheaply available for all vehicles in South Africa. Joubert said three generations of tyre sensors were on sale in South Africa, ranging from limited ABS-type sensors to costly rim-mounted devices.

"All vehicles in the US must have tyre-pressure sensors to promote safer driving," Joubert said. "The latest sensors show tyre pressures and temperatures in real time and will warn of any changes." He explained that tyres don't usually burst, but instead slowly disintegrate when they run too hot – and the damage is accumulative.

"The sidewalls of a tyre are built up in layers. Like a sweater, if you break one stitch, you can unravel the whole garment. The molecular stitches that make up the sidewalls of a tyre weaken under high temperatures and if you drive like this long enough the sidewall will eventually pull apart and the centrifugal forces will fling chunks of solid rubber in any direction, which can all happen so quickly that it looks like a burst."



Joubert warned that SA's summer temperatures could be hot enough to melt road tar: "This is when drivers are well advised to constantly monitor the temperature of their tyres. In Saudi Arabia, where people also drive long distances on baking roads, statistics show that almost 13 percent of all traffic accidents are caused by tyre failure."

SKOVA RESEARCH – OWL MYTHS

Skova Owl Research is based on a hilltop in the centre of Hazyview, where Lianda Naude houses 6 of South Africa's 12 indigenous owls. The project is new and exciting, and a great asset to Hazyview! New cages are nearly finished, with the help and support of Dries Pienaar from Nature Conservation who has kindly assisted in design and concept of this new and unique venture.

Throughout history and across many cultures, people have regarded Owls with fascination and awe. Owls are both feared and admired. In early Indian folklore, Owls represent wisdom and helpfulness. This theme recurs in Greek myths and beliefs. By the Middle Ages in Europe, the Owl had become the associate of witches, a feared spectre. During the eighteenth century the zoological aspects of Owls were detailed, reducing the mystery surrounding these birds.

- Africa: Owl is the familiar of wizards and witches, brings illness to children and the Owl's cry presages evil.
- Arabia: the Owl is a bird of ill omen, the embodiment of evil spirits that carries off children at night..
- Australia: (Aborigines) Owls the souls of women. Owls are therefore sacred
- Celtic: the Owl was a sign of the underworld.
- China: the Owl is associated with lightning
- France: when a pregnant woman hears an Owl it is an omen that her child will be a girl.
- Germany: if an Owl hoots as a child is born, the infant will have an unhappy life.
- Greenland: the Inuit see the Owl as a source of guidance and help.
- Ireland: An Owl which enters the house must be killed at once, for if it flies away it will take the luck of the house with it.
- Japan: the Ainu people revere the Eagle Owl as a messenger of the gods or a divine ancestor.
- Madagascar: Owls join witches to dance on the graves of the dead.
- Mexico: the Owl makes the cold North wind
- Middle East: the Owl represents the souls of people who have died un-avenged.
- Morocco: the cry of Owls can kill infants.
- New Zealand: to the Maoris it is an unlucky bird.
- Poland: Polish folklore links Owls with death...
- Russia: The Kalmucks hold the Owl to be sacred because one once saved the life of Genghis Khan
- Samoa: the people are descended from an Owl.
- Scotland: it's bad luck to see an Owl in daylight.
- Siberia: the Owl is a helpful spirit.
- Sumeria: The goddess of death
- Sweden: the Owl is associated with witches.
- Louisiana: Owls are old people and should be respected. Louisiana Cajuns thought , if you hear an Owl calling late at night you should get up from bed and turn your left shoe upside down to avert disaster.



DESTINATION - Ethiopia

Ethiopia is little known and yet it is an extraordinary place to visit with a unique culture, ancient history and some superb scenery - a wonderful experience for the truly adventurous traveller.

Ethiopia developed a culture all of its own: its language, customs and arts are all distinctive. The architecture is also diverse: the castles at Gondar are remarkably well preserved and, unsurprisingly, this ancient city has been described as the 'Camelot of Africa'. Equally, the rock-hewn churches at Lalibela are the finest of their type in the world.

Land features provide enormous natural beauty. The Tiss Issat Falls, situated near the beautiful town of Bahar Dar, are spectacular and no visitor should fail to view the magnificent mountain scenery of the Simien Mountains. The National Parks offer opportunities for travel adventure unparalleled in Africa. The rift valley region with the associated natural hot springs and Lakes are the nation's various attractions for tours, safaris, water sport and birding.

The uncommon combinations of historical, cultural and natural attractions mark Ethiopia as a unique tourist destination in Africa, which is an exciting and unexpected surprise for many travellers below are a few itineraries to tempt you.

Ethiopia - the land of timeless mysteries

http://www.africaguide.com/travel/aff/show_page.php?aid=18&grp=11&id=50&pid=1206

10 Days: This tour visits the historical sights of Ethiopia, taking in Bahir Dar and the spectacular Blue Nile Falls; Gondar, famed for its medieval castles compound and beautifully decorated church of Debre Birhan Silassie, plus visiting Lalibela and Axum.

TREES OF THE YEAR 2008

Every year the 'powers that be', in this case the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), the Botanical Society and the Dendrological Society, nominate two indigenous trees to be the trees of the year. One represents a common indigenous tree and one a rare indigenous tree. 2008's common tree is Diospyros whyteana or African bladder nut.

It is called Swartbas in Afrikaans and umKhaze or umTimatane in isiZulu. The rare tree for 2008 is Markhamia zanzibarica also known as the Bell Bean Tree. It is known as Klokkies-boontjieboom in Afrikaans but has no isiZulu name as it is not found in our province.

TENNECO'S KINETIC® SUSPENSION TECHNOLOGY ON 2008 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER

Brussels, Belgium, March 25, 2008 – Tenneco Inc. (NYSE: TEN) announced that its patented Kinetic suspension technology is featured on the 2008 Toyota LandCruiser 200. Toyota has launched its breakthrough suspension technology, known as the Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (KDSS), as standard on all five LandCruiser models except on the GXL turbo-diesel where it is offered as an option.

"The growth in our ride control business is driven by customers who want improved handling and stability and unique ride characteristics that help differentiate their vehicles," said Gregg Sherrill, Tenneco chairman and CEO. "Our Kinetic technology is an excellent example of such differentiation, and we were proud to work with Toyota on this important launch."

The KDSS system is designed to provide outstanding vehicle stability for the LandCruiser SUV, for both on- and off-road performance. It improves on-road ride, handling and steering feel by creating a flat operating stance during cornering and lane changing. For challenging off-road



maneuvers, the LandCruiser maintains control, balance and an even keel, while helping the driver maintain a comfortable ride.

The system does not rely on the use of wires or electronics, but rather operates through the use of hydraulic pistons, which control the front and rear stabilizer bars.

In launching the 2008 LandCruiser 200, Toyota said, "KDSS enables the new LandCruiser 200 to enjoy two previously contradictory benefits – longer wheel articulation for the most challenging off-road driving and the roll control needed for confident on-road driving."

The 2008 LandCruiser 200 was first launched in Australia, Toyota's largest market for the full size LandCruiser where the vehicle's performance excels due to its exceptional durability and performance in the harsh Australian "outback" conditions.

The LandCruiser is the second Toyota sport utility vehicle to feature the KDSS suspension. Tenneco debuted its Kinetic technology on the 2004 Lexus GX470 sport utility vehicle.

Earlier this year, Tenneco announced that it projects it will achieve an average compounded annual OE revenue growth rate of 11% to 13% between 2008 and 2012. This projection includes the Toyota business announced today.

About Tenneco

Tenneco is a \$6.2 billion manufacturing company with headquarters in Lake Forest, Illinois and approximately 21,000 employees worldwide. Tenneco is one of the world's largest designers, manufacturers and marketers of emission control and ride control products and systems for the automotive original equipment market and the aftermarket. Tenneco markets its products principally under the Monroe®, Walker®, Gillet™ and Clevite®Elastomer brand names.

RANGER ACQUITTED

Nelspruit - A Kruger National Park field ranger accused of shooting a suspected poacher in the head and killing him, has walked free. Fanyana Jethro Mawela, 42, of Makoko trust near White River was acquitted of murder in the Nelspruit Regional Court last Thursday.

He had pleaded not guilty to killing 29-year-old Bethuel Papas Mazibuko, also of Makoko. The incident took place near the Pretoriuskop camp at about 16:30 on September 23 2004. The court heard that Mazibuko and two other men were checking on snares they had set inside the park. Mawela and five other rangers had been lying in wait for them.

Mawela fired a warning shot, which ricocheted off a rock and hit Mazibuko above his right eye. The basis of Mawela's defence was that he didn't shoot directly at Mazibuko, but in the opposite direction while chasing after one of the other poachers.

Most of the witnesses, including one of the poachers and one of Mawela's colleagues, testified that they didn't see Mawela shooting at Mazibuko. Magistrate Albertus le Roux then acquitted Mawela.



THE BIG GREY DEBATE**FORMAL STATEMENT BY THE ELEPHANT SANCTUARY REGARDING THE 50/50 PROGRAM, "THE BIG GREY DEBATE" FLIGHTED 24TH MARCH 2008**

It may be worth noting that of the 120 trained elephants in the elephant back fraternity, only one third (approximately) of these elephants have been trained by Rory Hensman of EFAF.

However, by default of association, it appears that many other elephant operations condone and support the training methodology presented by Rory Hensman and do not have a problem with the use of chains/restraints; the isolating of elephants; or the capturing of elephants from the wild.

The Elephant Sanctuary would like it placed on record that they do not condone the use of chains; nor the isolating of elephants for the purposes of training and therefore object to be seen in the same light.

This being said, The Elephant Sanctuary, Hartbeespoort Dam, Hazyview and The Crags do not use these training methods and do not orchestrate or support the capture of elephants from the wild for the purposes of elephant tourism.

SOUTH AFRICA FALLS SHORT IN TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS

OUT of the nine Southern African countries included in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness report, only two made it into the top half of the rankings – Mauritius and South Africa with rankings of 41 and 60 (out of 130 countries) respectively. Both Lesotho (129) and Mozambique (123) were in the bottom 10, while Madagascar and Zimbabwe narrowly escaped with rankings of 118 and 117 respectively.

The report aims to measure the factors and policies that make it attractive to develop the travel and tourism sector in different countries. The 130 participating countries are measured in terms of 14 pillars: policy rules and regulations; environmental sustainability; safety and security; health and hygiene; prioritisation of travel and tourism; air transport infrastructure; ground transport infrastructure; tourism infrastructure; ICT infrastructure; price competitiveness in the travel and tourism industry; human resources; affinity for travel and tourism; natural resources; and cultural resources.

South Africa ranked quite highly in terms of natural resources (21st) and cultural resources (40th) based on its World Heritage Sites, rich fauna and the many international fairs and exhibitions held in the country. SA also benefits from price competitiveness (29th), well developed air transport infrastructure (40th) and high road quality (38th), good environmental sustainability (35th) and effective destination marketing (35th).

Areas of weakness for SA included safety and security (123rd). The report says that the costs of crime and violence ranked 125th. At 82nd the country also suffers in the area of health and hygiene, and 120th for travel and tourism government expenditure. All SADC countries ranked extremely poorly in terms of HIV prevalence, business impact of HIV/Aids and life expectancy, with the exceptions of Madagascar and Mauritius

UK STUDENT DIES AFTER SNAKE BITE

A British wildlife student has died after being bitten by a deadly black mamba snake on a safari training course in South Africa run by Bushwise. Nathan Layton, 28, was bitten by the reptile at the Southern African Wildlife College close to the Kruger National Park, where he was training to



become a field guide. Lecturers at the college had captured the black mamba - the second largest poisonous snake in the world - in the wild and were planning to show it to the students as part of an interactive lesson.

The staff were in the process of trying to transfer the reptile from a container into a larger bottle so it would be easier to study. It is thought that Mr Layton was waving his arms to encourage the snake to move when it suddenly rose up and bit him on the finger. At first he did not think any poison had been injected into his skin and after a quick examination by members of staff, who are all trained first aiders, they decided to continue with the lecture. About 20 minutes later Mr Layton suddenly complained his vision had become blurred and he collapsed into a coma from which he never recovered.

THE LIVING DESERT - By Don Hulley

The Living Desert trip is a new trail developed by 'The Journey' and 'Uri Adventures' and is a 5 day / 5 night trip thorough the Namib desert. The trip winds its way from just outside Solitaire through the desert in the Namib Naukluft National Park and ends in Walvis Bay. The members of the group were all invited guests of 'The Journey' hosted by Jurgens Schoeman. Our guides from Uri Adventures were Marius, Koosie and Johnny in their two Land Cruiser bakkies that carried everything we needed for the next 5 days.

The trip started with the members of the group meeting at Solitaire on Sunday afternoon 24th February where we refueled for the last time before getting to Walvis. The distance travelled is approximately 550km, 95% of which is on sand, and so you need about 200l of petrol or 150l of diesel. The little shop at Solitaire sells most of the basics, including hard tack, so if you have forgotten something you can stock up there. That evening we set up camp at the Solitaire Guest Farm and started meeting our fellow adventurers. Firstly my co-driver and companion was my son Sean who has never been on a real off road trip, needless to say that he ended up being a very accomplished sand and dune driver. The rest of the group was made up of a variety of people who were mainly professional people and we all became very good friends during the course of the trip.

As for vehicles these were as different as you could imagine and included; a Series 200 Cruiser, Series 100 Cruiser, a new Series 70 Cruiser, Nissan Patrol, current model Pajero LWB 3.2 DiD Auto, Nissan Nivara 2.5 dCi Double Cab, Toyota Hilux 3.0 KZTE, Prado VX 4.0 Auto (current model), Prado 3.0 VX (previous model) and a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon. So which performed best? Well, outside of the Cruiser bakkies, the 100 Series Cruiser and the Pajero did not miss a beat. Next would be the Wrangler and, very interestingly, the Nissan Nivara. This vehicle went where the cruiser went and with relative ease. It was quite amazing to see a 2.5l turbo diesel put out 128kW and 403Nm of torque and play with the big boys.

After enjoying a lovely lamb potjie for supper most people hit the sack early that evening. The next morning we were up early and had breakfast at the guest farm before heading off to the entrance gate to the park some 30 odd kilometers from Solitaire. Here we deflated tires, 0.8 bar in front and 1.0 at the rear, and had a last minute briefing by Marius on the do's and don'ts of travelling in this extremely ecologically sensitive area. And so the journey begins.

The first day we headed to the Kuseb River across the Namib plains following in the tracks of the old ox wagon routes from the late 1800s. During the trip Marius provided us with interesting information on the old settlers and explorers that used these routes as well as the geography of the area. The first day was a gentle initiation into driving in the sand and tackling dunes which at that point seemed quite large but which by day 5 were mere bumps in the road. Each vehicle had



its own 29Mhz radio and so we had a constant flow of information from Marius and Koosie and of course as the day wore on and people relaxed so the chirps and banter started.

And so we explored the Namib Desert over the next 5 days, seeing how the desert constantly changed as we moved westwards towards the Atlantic. From the old red dunes to the constantly shifting sands of those nearer the coast. Each day we would stop for a light lunch and it never ceased to amaze me just how quickly Koosie and Johnny had the table's setup and the food ready for us to eat. Each evening after making camp the group gathered around the fire to enjoy the discussion of the day's experiences over some liquid refreshments. And once again Koosie and Johnny had, as if by magic, conjured up an amazing meal for us to enjoy. Each evening a small tribunal was held to determine which person in the group had sinned so badly that day that they deserved the disgrace of having to wear the orange tee shirt the next day. And so the fun and camaraderie developed between what were 23 strangers to 23 friends tied by their experience of travelling together through the oldest desert in the world and helping each other over bigger and bigger challenges each day.

We saw the Ghost Mining towns, almost frozen in time, near Conception Bay, the rusted remains of the Eduard Bohlen lying some 600m from the coastline. We drove down long stretches of beach and then back into the desert for our last night around the fire and discussions about the ultimate challenges that awaited us on the morrow; such as the Land Rover Graveyard and the infamous Long Drop. If you have an urge to play amongst some of the highest dunes in the world then this is the place to be. The word "Awesome" had been used so many times on the trip however Day 5, our last day in the desert, was truly AWESOME. If you want to see a Land Cruiser fly then this is the place to be, not to say that some of the other vehicles didn't fly either.

So, at midday we drove the final 30km to Walvis along the beach, drained of the last ounce of adrenaline, stunned at the immense beauty of that we had experienced and sad to have to say goodbye, but also knowing we were privileged to have experienced something so special and just maybe, if we were very lucky, we would be back.

The one thing that cannot be done is to describe the beauty, solitude, immensity and ruthlessness of the Namib. No photo or video can even come close to giving one a sense of the place, the majesty of those dunes, and awe at the animals that eke out an existence in the hot and barren sand and the wonder of the people who had attempted to live there in the past. It cannot be described, it must be experienced.

In closing I must say thank you to Jurgens for making a slot available to the club to participate in this inaugural trip of the Living Desert trail. An even bigger thank you must go to Marius, Koosie and Johnny who made the trip the success it was. Nobody felt at any time they were in danger or at risk. Marius led the way in a quiet confident manner that ensured everyone's trust. He is a wealth of information about this desert that he loves dearly. Koosie is the recovery guy as well as the cook and gogga expert. Each one of us was extremely impressed by the maturity, intelligence, enthusiasm and absolute wealth of knowledge that this 21 year old has. His knowledge about the desert and the creatures that inhabit it is immense. He loves the goggas and is always catching something to show us. He has a demeanor about him that I wish I had. So in closing, thanks guys for taking me along on one of the best trips I have had the good fortune to experience.

For more details about the trip please speak to:
JURGENS SCHOEMAN - The Journey - Tel: 021 912 4090 / Fax: 021 912 4099
Sel: 082 341 6733 - www.thejourney.co.za



Bhejane 4X4 Adventures

Bhejane 4X4 Adventures was formed with the vision of conducting guided self drive 4X4 trails into the remoter areas of Southern Africa. Our objective is to involve everyone in the ecological, historical, cultural, 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, scuba 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 either English, Afrikaans, Zulu or Tswana.

For further information regarding the listed tours (see the website):

Contact: Frank: **044 535 9257** or **082 323 3561**

Dennis: **044 535 9257** or **082 572 4945**

Fax: **044 535 9257**

E mail: info@bhejane.com / Web: www.bhejane.com

(January 2008)

Industry Training (everybody welcome)

Training is offered by the professionals, for you, the professional. Offered by 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, our training is executed by PROFESSIONALS in their area of expertise. We also strive to make it price competitive, so as to bring it to the layman, at an affordable rate. See our vast offering for 2008, below.

1. Snake Identification and Snake Bite Treatment Course

The first course has run for the year and was extremely well attended. This is a must do course, especially on the snake bit treatment side. 5 of us successfully completed the 'optional' test for a FGASA Accredited Certificate during January, and having postponed attendance for many years, I am sincerely glad I attended this now. Also presented by one of only 2 venom 'tappers' in SA, Mike, a true professional indeed. Request details for next course. Also offers a Snake handling course, post the first course and then the exciting BLACK MAMBA handling course.

2. Level 1 First Aid Certificate

This course covers the latest methods and practices in a 16 hour training session over 2 days, for the requisite Level 1 certification as required by Law. Again, presented by a professional training authority and a practical and fun Dr. Ricky, candidates learn the basics of the CPR requirements, wound dressings and accident scene administration. A must do for moms with small kids, high school students (part of the national curriculum) and off-road and outdoor enthusiasts.



3. Bush Survival Course for Overlanders / 4x4ers

The course is presented on a bush farm called Lalapanzi, which is situated near Magaliesberg ± 107km from Midrand. The aim of the course is to teach survival skills to families planning 4X4 overland camping holiday trips in Africa. By participating in this course the family will gain confidence for a 4X4 overland trip that could have dire consequences in the event of a breakdown in a remote and desolate uninhabited area. The knowledge gained on the course will teach them how to deal with the situation.

These courses are scheduled over weekends thus enabling the family to become involved, and allowing a weekend camping at the bush farm campsite where facilities are available—self catering. The first course of this kind for this year will be presented over the weekend 16th—17th February 2008.

4. GPS Software Course (Next Course - 30 May 2008)

This course is presented by SA's Mr GPS, Kevin Bolton and deals with the PC Software aspect of your GPS environment. This includes Theory & Practical training in GPS Software Usage (Mapsource, T4A, Google Earth etc.). It is a 3 hour workshop, where candidates must bring their own GPS and Laptop / Notebook with software.

5. GPS Course (Next Course - 31 May – 1 June 2008)

This course is also presented by SA's Mr GPS, Kevin Bolton and deals with the Theory & Practical training in GPS Technology & Usage covering: Satellite Navigation theory, Faults and error in the system and problem areas, Datums, Projections, Co-ordinate systems (Includes practical), GPS screens, GPS menus, Configuration of your GPS, Practical route (GoTo's, Routes and BackTrak), Etc. Includes 35 page manual & 1:50 000 map.

If you do not have a GPS one will be provided – please just indicate such, as we will help you out during the course.

6. Driver Training Courses (Full schedule available)

We are teaming up with one of the oldest and most professional driver training outfits in Gauteng and will be presenting the following training courses:

- Introduction to 4x4 Driving
- Advanced Offroad Driving
- Skid Control and Defensive Driving
- Mechanical Fault Finding

7. Bush Medical Course

It happens often that the 4x4 traveler / overlander is being confronted with the prospect of having to treat medical conditions and make decisions, far beyond their scope of experience and knowledge. This happens as a direct result of the areas that we find ourselves in. The remoteness of certain areas give as the feeling of adventure, but also place us in areas, where medical infra-structure and care is limited and sometimes non-existent. Minor medical problems have the potential to become very serious, if not managed correctly. On the other hand, one might be confronted to break up camp prematurely and head home.

Dr Neil (General Practitioner / Occupational Health Practitioner) has been presenting the BUSH MEDICINE COURSE for the past 5 years in the Western Cape, as well as in



Gauteng. The course usually consists of two modules, each lasting a full day (roughly 6 - 8 hours depending on the group). It is very practical (you get to learn to suture lacerations and practice CPR on dummies). Due to time constraints, and the need to present such a course, it was decided to present the most important chapters over 1 day (8 hours), leaving the rest for self study. A certificate is provided to those attending. After completion, you should be able to initiate and manage most medical emergencies, as well as make the right decisions. The conditions are to be discussed, presented and highlighted.

8. Fire Fighting for Campers Course (Next Course - 10 May 2008)

The concept of this training session is twofold and aims to deal with the serious stuff and theory for the adults or driver, with a separate session for the moms and the kids – you can decide how you want to split it. The workshop will be dealt with by professional emergency services trained and qualified personnel.

The main lecture with accompanying handbook for notes. Explanations and demonstrations. Then it will be followed up by a practical session outside with firepans etc. The moms and kids will attend an enthusiastic and fun orientated practical lesson also by a professional, so they do not need sit through the lecture.

Each family subscribing will get 1 handbook only, included in the price.

9. Emergency Tyre Repair Course

This course / workshop will take place in Centurion later this year and hosted by a leading tyre dealership. Learn how to use that plastic tub of goodies you bought and have never used! A must do workshop for all offroaders.

Other courses will be presented as we go along. Watch the newsletter and direct mail shots for further details and the program once it has been released. Tell your friends. Send email to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS

MASAZANE BREAKAWAYS – UP TO 8 DAYS:

An opportunity to unwind from the general mayhem in our lives, without having to dig deep into your leave, if at all...

CAMP AFRICA – THE BEST BREAKAWAY IN THE SOUTPANSBERG!!!

CAMP AFRICA HUTS AND CAMPSITE (LIMPOPO, RSA)

Now if driving too far is not your 'thing'... and you just want to mellow for a few days... why not join us at **Camp Africa**. **Camp Africa** is situated on the fringes of indigenous forest and has a beautiful view over Louis Trichardt. By road it is approximately 5 km from the centre of Louis Trichardt. **Camp Africa** has five (5) huts and many camping spots. Each hut is a 'family-unit' with two (2) single beds and a double bunker, i.e. four (4) beds. **Camp Africa** has a fully licensed bar and there is a kitchen area with two fireplaces and a double sink. The ablution block – each of the ladies and gents has a toilet, washbasin and two showers with hot water from a 4kW geyser. There is a large boma that holds a 'kuier-fireplace' so that the beautiful evenings of this region can be enjoyed. Of interest to children, will be the animal pen with rabbits, chickens,



goats, geese, ducks, guinea fowl', etc. There is much else to see and hear... so bring the family anytime for a short break from the mayhem of city life...

Activities include the vehicle trail, birding, tree-spotting, hiking, cultural tours, historical tours, mountain biking, butterflies, moths... to name but a few...

We hope to hear from you and/or see you soon...

Dave (GP 0838) and Jacqui (GP 0773) van Graan
MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS
CAMP AFRICA
CK 1996 / 015766 / 23
PO Box 3357, Makhado, 0920, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)
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April 2008

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

GPS TRAINING COURSE FEEDBACK

Hallo Alan

Thanks for the GPS course of this past weekend. It was very helpful and with Kevin's vast knowledge that he shared with us I am looking forward to my next trip.

Regards

Andre Moller – Newsletter Reader

Dear Alan

Thank you for arranging this – wonderful. Would have been good to meet you – next time.

Regards

Duncan MacFayden – Ezemvelo Nature Reserve

ENTHUSIAST MEETING FEEDBACK

Morning Alan

Thanks for the evenings info last night – always good to see what's happening out there.

Cathy Morris

www.fintastic.co.za

Director

Frontrunner would like to thank all the Off Road Adventure Club members & visitors who came thru to our premisis for the meeting on the 11th March 2008 and would like to welcome all the new members to a great 4 x 4 family. The evening was a great success and I it is clear that a lot of new knowledge was gained from this meeting.



Thank you very much to Alan Goodway who as always goes out of his way to make these meeting a huge success.

REGARDS FROM THE FRONTRUNNER TEAM

Hi Alan,

Thanks for a very good evening. We all enjoyed it very much. “ **Eliminate the unknown. Tyredog™ provides you with real time data about vehicle tyre pressure and temperature, making your drive safer. Get your now at www.tyredog.co.za or phone Gideon Joubert on 084 554 9520”**

Regards
Gideon

Hi

Thanks for a great meeting last night, good seeing some of the old face again ... now I need to get into the bush soon !!! CU when you return, enjoy !!!

*Cheers,
Stuart Richter*

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Dagsê Alan,

Ek wens altyd ek was naby genoeg om hierdie lekker byeenkomste van julle by te woon. dit klink so up market en relevant. Oudtshoorn is bietjie ver en ek het al gedink om dieslefde tipe ding hier te loods, maar die voete is te min en borge dus ook non-existent.

Dankie vir die nuusbriëf - hou my steeds op jou adreslys, dankie.

Ek sien daar is 'n bydrae van my oor 4x4-opleiding in nou die dag se nuusbriëf. Ek glo Eben Human vna Buite -Burger koerant in die Kaap het dit vir jou gestuur. Dit was my reaksie op sy versoek dat ek iets oor die onderwerp vir die koerant moes skryf. Nou toe nou.

4x4-groete.
Coen Basson.

READER FEEDBACK, TALES & STORIES

Hi Alan

I found an interesting site for checking whether messages that urge to be passed on are indeed truth, or fiction. It's named (aptly!) truthorfiction.com. They say the following:

Beware of Car Jackers Who Leave a Piece of Paper on Your Rear Window-Fiction!

Summary of the Rumour

A warning that says that car jackers are using a new method for distracting you in order to steal your car. They leave a piece of paper stuck to your rear window. When you get into the car, start the engine, see the paper in your rearview mirror, and get out of the car to remove it, the car jacker jumps in and drives away.

The Truth

It pays to be wary of any unique scheme a thief might use to take your car but there is no evidence from law enforcement agencies that this has happened at all.



Tips on Pumping Gas From a Pipeline Employee-Fiction!**Summary of the Rumour**

A list of tips about how to pump gas most efficiently so that you can save fuel costs. Tips such as getting gas in the morning and filling the tank when it is still half full. The writer of the email says he's an employee of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline in San Jose.

The Truth

A spokesperson for the Kinder Morgan companies in Houston, Texas, told TruthOrFiction.com that as far as he knows this email did not originate from a Kinder Morgan employee. He added that although it is true that temperature and pressure affect the volume of liquids and gases, the impact on the average vehicle gas tank is so small that the advice in this eRumor is of little value

I though you might find it of interest.

Regards

Johann van Loggerenberg– Editor, Leisure Wheels

RE: NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT'S STANCE ON 4X4S

Until very recently I owned and operated a resort in Mozambique and I think that everyone should be aware of the regulations in Mozambique concerning 4 x 4 s. The only law in place is the driving on beaches by any motorised transport and this is strictly forbidden throughout Moz. Heavy fines and possible confiscation of the vehicle can and do take place. However having said this I am aware that in many places people get away with flouting this law and even seem to be encouraged by some resorts. Just be aware that normally this is due to the resort owner or other having a little "deal" with local authorities and a way of making a buck by issuing so called licences. Also bear in mind that should a higher ranking official visit the area from elsewhere you could be in for an expensive time.

What is of importance is that there is a growing antagonism to foreign 4 x 4 tourists due to the behaviour both on and off road. This is coming from all sides not just officialdom. The massive convoys and the disregard for other road users by these convoys is one of the main reasons for the anti feeling and unfortunately this is aimed mainly at South Africans as they are the majority of transgressors. If we are not careful we will soon see draconian laws being passed and whilst it is all very well to say stuff them we won't go there we are running out of places to go and this attitude is a case of "cutting off one's nose to spite your face."

Regards,

Brian

C4 IMAGES & SAFARI NEW

Hello again after a great festive season, which by now is probably long forgotten! We here at C4 Images and Safaris are very excited about the year that lies ahead. We have got great new tours planned, numerous courses and exciting workshops.

Firstly, take a look at our [scheduled itineraries](#) for the year. See Namibia like you have never seen before, with open spaces and breathtaking landscapes. Another Madagascar tour, scheduled for June will overcome all your expectations. See this exotic island with its lemur species and chameleons as well as the amazing baobab ally to name but a few. As the year almost draws to an end in November, come with us to Botswana and experience the Okavango Delta or the amazing Tuli elephants through the lens of your camera.

Our ever-successful [workshops](#) are fully booked for the year with the exception of June the 19-



22, so hurry up to book your place to Mashatu game Reserve in Botswana and take your photography skills to the next level.

Also, in addition to our popular one-day beginners and intermediate courses held at the Safari Nursery in Pretoria, we are planning a few new courses during the year. We will keep you updated! Lastly, enjoy looking at our updated [gallery](#) showcasing some great new additions.

We have a very exciting announcement to make within the next two weeks. We will keep you posted!

“Join C4 Images and Safaris’ award winning photographers on their 1 day Photo Courses and 3/4 day photo workshops. Learn how to improve your images from day 1, ‘See’ light and Composition and enjoy your photography. All our courses are aimed at improving your outdoor photography- images taken on holiday: Travel, outdoors, landscape, people and wildlife. For more info see www.c4images-safaris.co.za or call Shem: 012 804 0923”

Yours in photography,
Shem Compion

AFRICA BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL ADVENTURES

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

TOURS FOR 2008:

ROOF OF AFRICA

14th August—17 August 2008

ANGOLA FISHING SAFARI—13 DAYS

1st May 2008—14th May 2008

ANGOLAEXPEDITION—11 DAYS

2nd May 2008—13th May 2008

CUNENE TO CONGO RIVER—ANGOLA

13th July 2008—5th August 2008

27th August 2008—19th September 2008

MOUNTAIN OF THE MAMBA GAME VIEWING SAFARI

22nd May 2008—25th May 2008

27th September 2008—30th September 2008

SURVIVAL TRAINING—PRACTICAL SURVIVAL ADVENTURE

Apply for next dates

Advanced Survival Training available on Request.

We are flexible and can design the tour of your choice—try us. Our contact details:



KOOS MOORCROFT
DEAT REGISTRATION NO: GP2424
CATEGORY: ADVENTURE GUIDE
PROVINCE-S: NATIONAL
SPECIALITIES: PROFESSIONAL 4 X 4 TRAILS AND OVERLAND TOURS
CELL: 0825792796
ISOBELLE MOORCROFT
CELL: 0825612613
TEL/FAX: 012-6536725
E MAIL: kmoor@telkomsa.net
WEBSITE: www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

(January 2008)

Fresh from the Bush – New Products

H2O INTERNATIONAL ALBERTON FOR REFRESHING QUALITY

For all your water and air purifying requirements contact Ian Soutar at H2O International Alberton on 011 867 7211/ 082 380 2684 or visit our shop in Meyersdal Mall, Upper Level Shop 6, corner of Michelle Avenue & Hennie Alberts Street, Meyersdal, Alberton to view our wide range of products.

TJM BULL BAR FOR THE NEW TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 200 SERIES

The TJM Type 13 Outback steel bar is the best protection that money can buy and is now available for the new Toyota 200 Series at LA Sport 4WD Megastores. This engineer designed Type 13 Outback Steel Bull Bar will house a wide range of recovery winches in its standard winch frame (up to a LAS PRO Winch 9,000lb or Warn 9.5xp) and can accommodate large driving lights across the centre section mid tube.

Mid tube pipes across the head light loops also add extra strength and protection to the exposed areas in the event of an animal strike. In addition, TJM's unique 'T-Slot' Recovery Jack Points are available on this bar making it even more versatile.

As you would expect from a TJM bar, this bar doesn't come short on other features either. Durable Polycarbonate park/indicator light assemblies limit the chance of breakage when struck, Steel Kato Straps brace the upper structure of the bar adding strength to this large bar and thicker steel is used to construct the tough centre channel compared to that used by competitors.

TJM Bull Bars are air bag compatible, do not void your new vehicle warranty and should have no effect on your insurance policy. For more information on the new Toyota L/C 200 Series bull bar or other TJM products, contact your local LA Sport Dealer

<http://www.lasport.co.za/contact.htm>

SKID PLATES

Safari Centre has a new product on the market. The skid plates that can be fitted to most vehicles are of very high quality. These skid plates protect your vehicle's sump and carry a 2 year workmanship guarantee.



INTEGRATED WINCH WITH FRONT TOWAGE

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The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedbacks**BUNDI 4x4 DAY TRIP**

It was time for the Bundi trail. We had 10 takers for the trail including Rian, the guide for the day. One participant cancelled early morning and one other notified that they would not be able to make it just before we departed the meeting place. We left the Sasol garage on the R55 at 08h30. Picked up 2 other members at the Excel garage just above the Bundi trail. We arrived at 09h00.

Frenchie welcomed all of us, we completed the paperwork and then he explained the rules and techniques he is famous for. After some questions everyone were happy and we got off to the starting point – Frenchie leading the group on foot.

The first few obstacles were there just as an appetizer. Then we got to “The Rock” where a few guys took the tough route and most others the medium route. After that we got to the hole where we were introduced to the Tortoise crawl and the Slide. We competed on a points system for fun – u start off on 60. You loose 10 for every reverse. Some finished with 60, others ended up with zero – showing that everything isn’t always as easy as it seems.

We moved up a hill, one at a time and moved on to the next phase of the course – the more difficult one. We started off driving a 20° camber slope which had most of the people very nervous, especially the non experienced drivers. Frenchie’s driving techniques through these obstacles are really interesting and everyone got through with no damage to their vehicles. Then we came to some interesting sideway declines where everyone needed some individual guiding through the obstacles. The BIG one then came up – a 48° camber slope – u go into it very slowly and while nearly lying on your side – Frenchie rocks your vehicle just to show how far a vehicle can lean over without rolling – its all in the patience of going slow. Everyone loved taking pictures here – very impressive.

From here it was few basic axle twisters and another 36° camber slope before we got to a decline where we went down only on engine compression, what a rush. We then had a look at the waterhole where we decided to give it a miss as well as Buffalo Hill where only very experienced drivers should try coming up as it a place where u can damage your vehicle should u make a mistake.

After all the action everyone went for a snack/braai where everyone departed on their own time. A great time was had by everyone and I am sure that all members have learned a lot about crossing different obstacles in a different way. Thanks Frenchie – we will be back again.
Rian Habig (Guide).



Hi Alan

Just to let you know we enjoyed Bundi thoroughly. An interesting course and an interesting "instructor"/guide. We learned a lot and a great day all in all!!! Thanks to Rian and Frenchie.

Regards

Parsons Family

Alan,

Tx again to rian for a most enjoyable trip. The nice thing about bundi is that it exposes you more than any other trail to roll over angles. if you think 22 degrees is scary then wait for 38 and yes believe it or not 48 degrees. some people (wait for the pic of andre) were able to pick up a stone from inside the car; though done with very sweaty shivering fingers.

The trip proved once again that if you are careful and do things as slow as possible, "half a tortoise crawl", many what seems as impossible obstacles can be done without damage to your vehicle. As Frenchi the owner and instructor used to say "go slow it is worth the price of the vehicle".

Once again some new faces were seen, showing that the club is sound and growing.

Regards

Johan Marx

DIGGERS HOLE 4x4 DAY TRIP

On 22 March, a group of four vehicles from the club braved the wet, muddy conditions, and went to Digger's Hole, situated near Cullinan.

We warmed up on a small obstacle course, part of which we left out due to the high water level. It is awe inspiring to see a Defender charging up a steep incline, with a wave of water leaving the vehicle.

We then proceeded to do the trails that exist on the farm. The first portion was mainly declines into the stream, some with a few VERY sharp turns. Again, a number of obstacles were left out, as we felt that the water level was too deep for us to navigate the stream without damaging a vehicle.

It was during this part that the Hyundai got stuck in the stream bed, and had to be recovered. The only reason for the vehicle not being able to get through was a lack of ground clearance.

Once the mud and water driving was completed, we moved on to the other side of the stream, and drove through the old diamond diggings. This part comprised of mainly stone and dirt, and some fun was had getting through the axle twisters situated at the top of a steep incline.

After the fun was finished, we headed back to a shady spot, pulled out the lunch, and talked about the bush (what else).

The last vehicles moved out at about 3pm, after a great day out.

Mike Collinge – Guide

BARBERTON / BADPLAAS LONG WEEKEND EXCURSION

20 adults, 3 teenagers and 5 small kids set out for the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club's Barberton Hills Exploration weekend. We were ten vehicles in all, 4 caravans, 4 4x4 trailers and the rest in



tents. Just a perfect number and the right mix for a fun filled yet relaxing weekend. Due to the expected heavy traffic at the start of the Easter weekend, convoy driving was not considered and the group were advised to arrive at their leisure either on Thursday afternoon or on Friday morning, where upon they were instructed to pitch camp and ordered to just relax.

Rex's Ranch was our destiny for the weekend, a quiet out of the way camp right on the Seekoei Spruit a few kilometres west of Badplaas in Mpumalanga.

With all the recent rains there was somewhat concerns about the weather and I kept watching the forecasts for quite a few days before hand to find out if it was all clear to go. There was a low level bridge to cross into the camp and it had been flooded a few times earlier in the rainy season. Fortunately for us the river was down and the weather was kind the whole weekend apart from the Sunday afternoon where a gentle shower sent everyone to the tents for a well earned afternoon rest.

We were supposed to be the only campers at Rex's Ranch but unfortunately the resort down the road decided to send one of their overflow campers onto our pre-booked site and we had no choice but to camp around them.

With some of the late arrivals pitching camp on Friday morning we decided to spend the day at leisure either in camp or at the Badplaas resort down the road which was visited by most that day, each spending time out in the hot pools, in the hydro spa and with many of the kids having much fun on all the waterslides.

That evening we had a Potjie competition for those who wanted to enter. We got the camp caretaker "Tannie Susan" to judge and she took the judging rather seriously. The competition was won by Frans Verwoerd and a well deserved win it was. Various other prizes donated by the club were also given to the runner ups. The rest of the evening was spent around a communal fire getting to know everyone and chatting to old friends.

The planned full day outing along with a picnic lunch was held on the Saturday. A +- 200km drive with lots of stops ranging from street side vendors, museums, view points and a picnic in a ghost town was the order of the day with everyone participating to the full.

The outing included a sight seeing drive to Barberton, we viewed the pride de Kaap valley from the top of Bothasnek on route and visit the Barberton Museum and the Umjindi Jewellery Project.

From Barberton we drove the Saddleback pass to Josefsdal; visited the Ghost town of Msauli deep in the Komati river gorge where we had lunch. We did a bit of geocaching on the way (a GPS game played using the internet and a GPS), and from Msauli village, drove onto Ekulindeni where we viewed a typical Swazi Cultural Village and back onto Rex's Ranch.

Sunday we went into the Emanzana Nature reserve for an early morning game drive and for the first time, using a bit of low range we drove to a view point high in the hills.

Monday morning we leisurely broke camp and whilst some headed on home, some spend time at the resort relaxing for a while before attempting their haul home.

The weekend was just a nice balance of sight seeing, culture, nature, relaxing, sleeping and lazing around. Just the way I like it!



To all of you who attended, thanks for your nice e-mails and thanks for attending, we will certainly be back.

Jonathan Greengrass
Club Guide

Hallo Alan

A combination of well planned and researched activities together with ample leisure time under the guidance of Jonathan & Jill Greengrass made for a splendid Easter weekend. Thanks to Jono & Jill for all the arrangements, info shared regarding the area and introducing us to Saturn which must have been one of the highlights of the weekend. We certainly enjoyed the time spent together as a family and with other club members.

The Barberton Exploration weekend again highlighted what the Club has to offer.

Kind regards

Frans, Denise, Grant, Sunita & Joshua Glanvill

Hi Jonathan & Jill

Just like to thank you for a stunning weekend. Mark, the kids & myself have not stopped talking about it. You really made it very interesting and informative. We can't wait until another trip is organised, hopefully we will be able to make it ie. during private school holidays.

To Jill a very BIG thank you for organising the easter hunt the kids had a fabulous time they still tell everyone about it. The little baskets that you gave them was such a lovely touch.

Thanks again and see you soon, keep well.

Regards

The Walkers

Jonathan,

Just from outside, a word of thanks for all the effort done on the week-end, very enjoyable and relaxing. We should push for more of these types of events, where the focus is to relax and socialize, and not so much on the 4x4 side.

We were home at 16h30, after an quick hour family stop over in Hendrina, road not to busy, Middelburg tollgate moved quite well.

Many thanks again.

Karen & Ernest

Jonathan & Jill

Thanks again for the wonderful Easter weekend. As always your knowledge of the areas and preparation was exceptional and Elize, the kids and I, had a fantastic time. Christo was in his element after the easter bunny paid him a chocolate visit, (I don't know whether you saw that he went back several times on Sunday and Monday, looking for some more easter eggs! just in case he missed one!)

Thanks for the lovely time in a wonderful setting.

Regards

Stefan , Elize & family Kruger



MOUNTAIN OF THE MAMBA LONG WEEKEND OUTING

"Dying is not an Option".

No one expected to experience so much in so short a time. The word survival does not only mean a "continued existence" but is also an acronym used during the survival talks by Koos Moorcraft, our tour guide for the weekend to the 22 000 ha malaria free Entabeni Safari Conservancy- "The Place of the Mountain" less than 3 hours drive from JHB and approximately 30 km outside Mookgopong (Naboomspruit).

The 4 day/ 3night experience arranged by the *4 x 4 Offroad Adventure Club* under the leadership of Koos supported by his wife Isobelle and hosted in the Entabeni Game Reserve situated in the World Heritage "Waterberg Biosphere" where our host Lee Gutteridge ably assisted by Banie van Tonder, Ian Weerepas and Alida had collaborated with Koos to present a unique game viewing, nature and educational encounter.

With Koos in the lead and stating 'lets drive' the group of 6 families departed the Panorama Petro Port rendezvous at 10:00 on Thursday 21 February 2008, via Mookgopong where a 7th family was met before making our way to Entabeni.

Arriving at approximately 13:00 we were met by Lee and his team who introduced us to their "Nature Guide Training School" and briefed us on the activities of the school. After refreshments we departed to the bush camp where we got down to setting up camp in very much the form of a lager as there are lions in the reserve which had been sighted a couple of km's away. We were also briefed on the dangers of camping in a 'Big 5' reserve and thus on rotation one member of the Entabeni team would camp with us for the duration of our stay to ensure our safety. This is a bush camp in the true sense of the word with only a pit latrine, braai area and a tank of water. Each family made provision for their own luxuries such as showers, chemical toilets etc.

At 15:30 the group divided into two smaller groups and departed on 2 game viewing vehicles to experience the Entabeni Game Reserve. Game is abundant and frequent stops were made to highlight animal behaviour, discuss plant species, point out birds and generally provide answers to our questions and provide as much information as possible. A brief view of the lions was the highlight of the drive. These game drives would become the norm for the next 2 days where morning and afternoon drives had been scheduled.

Arriving back at camp after dark a fire was lit, supper made and everyone retired to bed with only animal sounds including the occasional roar of the lions disturbing the quiet of the bush.

A 05:00 wake up call on Friday saw departure at 06:00 on the morning game drive during which we encountered the pride of 8 lions at close proximity including the dominant black mane male weighing 270 kg's. Being early morning we were able to experience a lot more bird activity. Returning to camp at about 10:30 brunch was prepared and at 12:00 we gathered under the shade of a large Silver Cluster Leaf to commence the first of two information sessions. The days talk was led by Lee and his team and covered identification of animals and their tracks, identification of trees, shrubs, bushes and other plants of the area, identification of birds and the behaviour of dangerous game not only predators but animals such as Buffalo, Black Rhino, Elephant, Hippo etc. The use of reference books for identification of species was explained using the guides & keys contained in the books. The session was closed by a practical illustration around the camp where trees such as Large Fruited & Velvet Leaf Bushwillow, Wild Syringa, Silver Raisin Bush, Live-long, Transvaal Milkplum and many others were identified.



With newfound knowledge we departed on the afternoon drive at 16:00 with books and spoor charts in hand. Many a stop was made to identify spoor and tracks and besides the many animal spoor we identified snake, dung beetle, millipede and even water monitor tracks. On our way back to camp we were rewarded with sightings of a Giant Eagle Owl and Marsh Owl. Content in our endeavours and achievements of the day we again settled around the fire for a late supper and bed eagerly anticipating a new day filled with new experiences.

All too soon the 05:00 wake up call was made, coffee brewed and at 06:00 we headed out into a new day. So many experiences captured again with our competent guides with more than 30 years combined experience happy to share their knowledge and accommodate our speciality interests. Satisfied we returned to camp for brunch.

Today we gathered at 12:00 to be instructed by Koos in survival strategy & equipment, survival skills, mapping, navigation & navigation skills utilising maps and compass. The key to this session was "*dying is not an option*". The acronym "*survival*" was explained and each letter defined a consideration or task towards ensuring a continued existence.

We certainly learned about how to **S**ize up the situation, **U**se our senses, **R**emember where we were, **V**anquish our fear, **I**mprovise, **V**alue life, **A**ct like animals & the locals and **L**earn to practise our skills. This session ended with a demonstration of how to collect water, make a shelter and start a fire. The equipment a person should assemble in a survival *kit* to compliment *knowledge* and support the *will* to live to tell the tale was displayed and discussed.

The differences between true north, grid north and magnetic north were explained and the influence they could have if not taken into consideration when doing map work.

The practical session consisted of plotting headings and using back bearings to establish one's position.

Maps, compass, pencil & paper in hand we departed for the afternoon drive and our practical navigation experience. Obviously the class instructions were to the point and well explained as no one had any difficulty in accomplishing the mapping tasks given by Koos. The drive was completed with a drive up "Yellow Wood Pass" the passage between the lower escarpment where our camp was and the upper escarpment where we found indications of Elephant and sighted a lone male Buffalo while proceeding to a viewpoint providing magnificent views of the lower escarpment. After sundowners we departed to camp and enroute were rewarded with 2 sightings of a "Jameson's Red Rock Rabbit" which according to Lee is extremely rare and a first for him and his team.

On arrival back at camp a fire was already burning and as routine supper was prepared.

Inescapably the last day always arrives too soon and there was no wake up call yet everyone seemed to be up early preparing to depart at 10:00. Prior to our departure we visited the water collection site to view how much water had been collected since building these. Although leafy in taste the water was drinkable. Three methods of snaring were also demonstrated. This is for nourishment only besides methods for catching burrowing scorpions that are also edible.

Today we would drive to Wildside Safari Camp a tented camp— one of six lodges in the Entabeni Reserve and by special arrangement would experience a game drive in our own vehicles. Leaving trailers and caravans at the old reception offices we departed passing Mabote River Camp where nature guide students are taken to view bushmen paintings. The drive in the reserve required the use of low range at certain points without any mishaps. We arrived at the picnic spot



for lunch where Lee pointed out 3 magnificent 'Eugene Marais' Waterberg Cycads before a short dip in a rock pool.

Koos expressed his thanks to all, especially to Lee and his team who had made this dream become a reality. We then had the privilege of driving down the "Yellow Wood Pass" in our own vehicles requiring the use of low range for the very steep descent. A short stop at "Wildside Safari Camp" for curios allowed one to appreciate the privilege of being permitted to camp in this reserve, drive in ones own vehicle, and have 3 guides share their knowledge with us at any time. Arriving at the old reception we proceeded to hitch trailers/ caravans, bade fond farewells to new & renewed friendships and departed for home.

This surely is one of life's experiences being the first to camp in this reserve and to have "Africa Bushcraft & Survival Adventures" and "Entabeni Nature Guide Training" as our guides and hosts for an unforgettable 4 days.

Frans Glanvill – Club Guide

Hallo Alan

Thanks for concluding the arrangements for an unforgettable experience. Den and I would like to convey our thanks, firstly to Koos & Isobelle for their leadership and concern for our well being throughout the 4 days as well as the info shared by Koos and the inspiration to persevere with this endeavour which is not available in the RSA. Secondly, to Entabeni Nature Guide Training which has so much to offer. The enthusiasm of Lee and his team is very evident and they certainly are a formidable team with a wealth of information.

To anyone wanting to experience Entabeni in this form and are willing to accept a pit latrine and be self sufficient then there is no other choice.

*Thanks
The Glanvill's*

The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy

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Flat Wheel – Light Relief

From a Traveller to Zim.

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I was doing 68km/hour in a 60km zone.'

Arrested for speeding and waiting for the cop to write out the fine... As is typical in many African states, I was then given the choice between going to court the following day or paying an "on the



spot"-fine right there. Well, I opted to pay the fine, and couldn't decide whether I should laugh or cry when the ticket was handed to me:

The fine was no less than \$40 000!

Fortunately, being in Zim dollars, which at the time traded on the street at SA Rand R1=Zim\$ 140 000 . This meant that I was fined just less than 30 South African cents (about 4 US\$ cents)!

Anyway, just goes to show once again that Africa is a great place and that the indomitable ordinary people keep hope alive and where you can always expect the unexpected ..

Preferred Suppliers - Gauteng

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

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KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

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

8) KEMPTON CARAVANS - KEMPTON PARK - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

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

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