



## Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there enthusiasts,

HECTIC! A common word used when you think you are in control, but really not! Well that is how October whisked by, and November is looking no better. With looming exams, and schools closing, the year end looms much bigger to most of us! Well, such is life...but it just won't slow down! Just looking at my Delete folder in my email application, shows in excess of 2000 emails deleted during the month. Never mind the amount I sent and what's still hovering around in my Inbox, which I am trying to deal with! Well, I say it often, want something done, give it to a busy man.

Ja Ja, no wonder I have then embarked in the launch of the Northern Region of the Four Wheel Drive Guide's association, as well as taking on additional writing assignments now for the Drive out Magazine as well. Eish, it keeps me busy! But, hey somebody has to do it! The Diaries on the [www.ccic.co.za](http://www.ccic.co.za) site is now flowing well, and the monthly updates from the 3 contributors are a worthwhile read indeed.

With a busy 4x4 month behind us, our club visited Bass Lake 4x4, we trekked to Luderitz via Namibia and did the awesome Luderitz to Walvis Bay Desert Dune trail under the leadership of Eben Delpont and Team from Uri Adventure, which led me to after so many years meet Lewis Drukker from Coastaway Tours and finally get to stay at the much publicised Obelix Lodge. We also tackled the Mateke 4x4 Trail in the Limpopo Province, a technically challenging trail, which resulted in much road building and a 9 hour jaunt in the field, which was absolutely exhausting.

A few of us also recced a bushveld caravan park just outside of Brits, which I picked up in the SA Caravan and Outdoor recently, and I am pleased to report that if you want a chill out weekend, with bushveld sights and sounds, experiencing self drive game drives and modern, clean facilities such as ablutions, wash up and swimming pools, pub and restaurant, then a weekend trip to Dube Game Reserve is a must do! Charged the batteries so much, that our club will end off our very busy year, amongst the comfort of friends, mid December at this venue.

The essence of having excellent (not good!) 4x4 insurance again came to the fore this month when a Land Cruiser on our trip lost its gearbox and had to be left in the desert while we continued our trip. Where? Doer anderkant the BEEEEG Dunes! Well, a satphone call to an enthusiastic Broker, the backing of Cross Country and a few days later a recovery operation was performed, the vehicle shipped to South Africa and a very happy insured member, all proved why we pay our premiums. I even had a frightening yet fast "meeting" with a 'tarentaal' on the N4.

Man what an adrenalin rush (for me, not it!) – I almost did the proverbial! It happens so fast, as it was unseen until it literally said 'hoezit'. Well covered in fine glass bits, I drove to Centurion Glasfit, completed a form, went for a walk during which I got two cell phone messages - one to say the claim had been lodged with Cross Country, the next to say that it was authorized, and



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then after about an hour, I went to collect my vehicle with a new windscreen. Guys, don't skimp on this essential item!

Well we finally launched the Northern Chapter of the 4WDGA as stated, and had an excellent turn out of just over 45 people. This chapter will now start getting things going up here. With the pending hand over of the Strategy for Self regulation, the hopefully accepted (this month) 4WD Driver Training Standards which will now result in a process to obtain a Driver Competency Certificate, and the requirement for registered 4WDGA guides to accompany people (4x4, Quad, Overlander, 2 wheelers) into Eco Sensitive areas into the future, 2009 holds a challenging time for one and all. There is still a lot of work to be done, but we have to start focusing on it, as we do not know what the new parliament in 2009 will require from us. But forewarned we are.

There is a 4x4 Trail and Overland Guide course at month end, with a good turn out, as well as a GPS Software Workshop and a Mapping, Navigation and GPS Course as well. If anybody would like more details, feel free to contact me.

The Johannesburg International Motor Show started this weekend and has a lot of exciting new models and concepts on show. Make sure you get there before it ends on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The AAWDC also embarks on the development, following its success with the 4x4 Driver Training Manual, of a new Overland Travel Manual for its members and the industry at large. No mean feat, but the help of a few volunteers have been called in and the group start their first workshop this coming week.

Good news is the pending fuel decrease this week, which will hopefully have a knock on effect. Us guys going to the Serengeti next year panicked when our initial planning of R8 to the 1\$, nearly doubled in the weeks past. The economy has been taking a whack of late, so much so that SANPARKS have already published their annual increases from September 2009! Now there's hedging your bets. They are however looking at restructuring the pricing model, which may make it more affordable and enticing for local South African families.

Our infamous Enthusiast Meeting has its final meet of 2008, and will again be held at the annual venue in Kempton Park. Great speakers on offer and again, as always great catering by our hosts Kempton Caravans. To top it again this year, we are raffling off great prizes, with the main prize being a set of offroad tyres sponsored by Bridgestone SA. Make sure you get the invite and that you book the date. It will be published closer the time.

Well, as we draw close to the end of another great year, we have seen great growth in distribution and content of our Newsletter this year. In the industry though, it is sad to see the Afrikaans magazine Mooloop (Afrikaans Getaway) close its door due to sustainability. Advertising revenue is down and I believe competition for it, tough. Pity, as the more positive reading matter we have in the industry, the better.

OK, lost to do, no more to say, but Stay Safe! Be Responsible...and Get out There....

Enjoy the read!

***Yours in 4x4ing.***

***Alan Goodway (GP 1796)***

***Editor (voluntary!)***



## 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
1-9 November 2008	Johannesburg International Motor Show	NASREC

## Calendar of Training Events

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

Date	Event	Venue
26-30 November	4x4 Trail & Overland Guide Course	Louis Trichardt
28 November 2008	GPS Software Course	Centurion
29-30 November 2008	Mapping, Navigation and GPS Course	Centurion

*Invite to GPS Courses will follow this month.....*

## [WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM](http://WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM) – Your Serengeti Specialists!

Herewith details regarding the planned tours for Africa proudly presented by us this year.

### 2008..still to come:

Tour 17 - Namibia Tour: 2008 : 13 Dec – 3 Jan 2009 (SPACE AVAILABLE!!!)

### 2009 (See our website [www.eco4x4africa.com](http://www.eco4x4africa.com))

Includes ANGOLA!!!!

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](mailto:alex@eco4x4africa.com)

**January 2008**



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

### **4WD GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

The Association has, since its August AGM, launched into a new dynamic phase of its existence, which includes establishing the necessary communications channels with its members, anyone who guides off road. It is an imperative of the NOW process that 4WD Guides are unified into an association so that there is a two way communication channel with government. (Government doesn't communicate with individuals, only with recognised representative bodies.)

Our aim for the next six months is to "get legal". Many guides have either let their registrations lapse, or haven't registered at all. We urge all such individuals to accept this invitation to join up so that the Association can facilitate the process of getting you legal.

All guides are encouraged to register onto the 4WDGA Forum and to post their questions, share ideas and generally become more informed about guiding related matters. So, log onto [4wdga.com/forum](http://4wdga.com/forum) and let's chat!

We have recently established branches in Gauteng under Alan Goodway - and the Eastern Cape under Francois Beyers, which together with the Cape Town based Committee should offer ample opportunity for direct assistance in the short term. Further branches will be rolled out as the demand requires.

According to the NOW strategy, anyone who guides offroad, including Quads and Motorcycles is represented by the 4WDGA. Visit [www.4wdga.com/forum](http://www.4wdga.com/forum) or contact [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za) for more details in the Northern Provinces – we are creating a communications network and need to start talking to all registered, expired and soon to be registered 4x4, ATV, Overlander and 2 wheeler (offroad) guides.

Philip Sackville-Scott  
National Secretary

### **END OF THE ROAD FOR MOOILLOOP**

Ramsay, Son & Parker will cease publication of its Afrikaans travel lifestyle magazine, *Mooiloop*, the publishing house announced Friday afternoon, 17 October 2008, with the December issue to be its last. According to publisher Jacqueline Lahoud, the decision to close comes at a time when heavily reduced advertising spend is placing many titles under pressure.

*Mooiloop* was launched as *Wegbreek* in July 2006 as a flank to, and translation of, *Getaway*. From April 2007 the magazine developed its own unique content and personality. To signal its new identity and to appeal to the more intellectual lifestyle reader, its name was changed to *Mooiloop* in May this year.

"This was a really tough decision," she said. " *Mooiloop's* content is of an exceptionally high standard and our readership has shown some grown over the years. However, we have not enjoyed the levels of advertising support needed to sustain its publication, a situation that is unlikely to change given the current economic climate and future outlook."



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She paid tribute to the editorial team under Gerrit Rautenbach, who had shown "huge commitment, passion and dedication" to the magazine. They had done a remarkable job, she said.

Rautenbach commented that launching a new magazine is a brave undertaking, one that had provided him and his small editorial team with much fun and fulfilment. "But as our slogan, 'reis sonder einde', clearly says, the journey is never over."

### **ROB AND JULIE SAY GOODBYE (WERE GUEST SPEAKERS AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS)**

Rob and Julie Filmer founded Eco-Access in 1994 and have been at its helm ever since. As many of you will know Rob was recently diagnosed with heart failure and this together with kidney failure and various other medical complications has meant that Rob and Julie have had to slow down their lifestyle. It has become necessary to start a new chapter in their lives and at the end of September they handed over the reins to Dr Khanya Rajuili Eco-Access's new CEO.

Although they have retired in their full time capacity Rob and Julie want to assure all our Eco-access supporters that they have not and will never cut themselves off from the vision for which they have strived over the past 15 years. Eco-Access remains as relevant as it ever has and it is their wish that you will continue to support the organization with your time finance and love – just as they will continue to do.

Here is their farewell message to you:

*"We have had 14 happy fulfilling and challenging years with Eco-Access! It has been our life our source of inspiration and our baby. For both personal reasons and for the future of the organization the time is right for us to move on and for Eco-Access to take its own path. We continue to believe in the organization and the difference it is making in South Africa and to this end we will continue to support all it does with our time skills and finance.*

*It is a difficult and sad step saying goodbye but exhilarating and satisfying knowing that it is in the hands that it is in! Eco-Access possibly has more dynamic people and passion than it has ever had before and we feel immensely proud of all the potential that lies ahead!*

*To all our supporters you are a powerful group of people and it is our wish that you enjoy Eco-Access use it as an opportunity to learn and mostly that through it you are able to contribute to our beautiful country and people! We've planted the seed the tree is growing and we trust you will now take the tree and grow it into a forest! Thank you for taking the baton and continuing the race!" – Rob & Julie Filmer*

### **SANPARKS RATE INCREASES FOR 2009**

Inflation in the South African economy has increased beyond expectation over the past year and SANParks is compelled to implement an annual rate increases earlier than the normal annual 01 November date that is the norm in the tourism industry.

With CPIX at 13,6% in August 2008 and average accommodation and camping rates increasing by an average of only 7,0% on 01 November 2008, SANParks decided to hike rates earlier than normal in 2009 and the accommodation and camping rates will increase by an average of 14,6% as from 01 September 2009.



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SANParks sets its rates a year in advance and inflation increased more rapidly than was projected. Various options were considered, including an additional increase as from 01 November 2008. However, due to the fact that so many of the guests had already booked and in some cases paid for their holidays to national parks, it was decided not to implement this option, but rather increase the fees for new bookings from 01 September 2009 (which open from 01 October 2008). Conservation fees and activity rates will also increase from 01 September 2009.

SANParks had some good news though in that additional person rates in guest houses have now been restructured so that children will be charged at half the adult rate as from 01 November 2008.

Children in guest houses were charged full additional person rates in the past and with this change, it is hoped that it will be easier for family groups to visit national parks.

G. PHILLIPS  
MANAGING EXECUTIVE:  
TOURISM & MARKETING

### **IF IT MOVES, SHOOT IT?**

An interesting snippet of information for those of you who think it is perfectly legal to shoot game on your property is that it may be illegal! Although ownership of wildlife laws in South Africa dictate that what game comes onto your property is yours, this does not always mean you can do what you want with it. Unless your property is fully fenced, and it can be proven beyond doubt that no game can move in or out of your property, the game is determined to be free roaming. This in turn means that you must have a permit to shoot any game which moves across your property!

### **LEISURE WHEELS, NOVEMBER 2008**

The December issue of Leisure Wheels went on sale on 10 November, again featuring something of everything the 4x4 and adventure motoring enthusiast wants to read about. Our cover story looks at a new concession area, and the elephants of Botswana. They've apparently started migrating again to the green pastures of Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe, crossing the Zambezi River at will. And interestingly enough, they avoid the many minefields still about in war-torn Angola, perhaps using their sense of smell.

Those readers that have done it, will know that driving up Baboons Pass in Lesotho is not for the faint-hearted. We've done it - towing a caravan! Why? Because it's there...

A number of intrepid bikers took their BMW R1200GSs across the notorious Van Zyl's Pass in the north of Namibia and toured Kaokoland, while we also have the amazing story of a young Dutch actress's three-year journey across Africa - on a 35-year-old tractor!

Destinations include the Matjiesvlei Guest Farm in the Karoo, there's a report on the SUVs and MPVs seen at the Paris Motor Show, we drove Volvo's newest cross-country - the XC60 - in Spain, and we announce the Leisure Wheels Economy Challenge for Crossover Utility Vehicles.

It's one with a difference. For real-live, achievable consumption figures we invite our readers to come and drive the likes of BMW X3, L-R Freelander, Hyundai Tucson, Jeep Patriot and other so-called softroaders over a 1000km route.



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We test the new Nissan Qashqai TDi 4x4 and find it surprisingly good, and look at Mini's planned new SUV.

And there are the regulars - news from our neighbouring countries, Francois Rossouw's expert 4x4 advice, Andrew White stepping on a few toes, and a report on the most recent off-road racing event.

Truly something for everyone

### **BRIDGESTONE CHALLENGE 2009**

The registrations for the 2009 Bridgestone Challenge Event (in more than 1 province) is now open. If you are interested in entering either as an individual, or as a team (min 5 vehicles – also participate as an individual), please URGENTLY contact Johan Moster at [jmostert@bridgestone.co.za](mailto:jmostert@bridgestone.co.za).

The event will be held in Gauteng (supporting events in Pretoria, Lichtenburg and Swaziland), KZN, Cape Town, Free State and maybe 1 or 2 other venues.

### **NEWS FROM AFRICA BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL ADVENTURE**

Dear friends,

We have taken two tours to Angola this year, one being a short expedition for the Gauteng based 4X4 Offroad Adventure Club and the other, our Cunene to Congo River Adventure.

We were also privileged to guide Johan Badenhorst and the 'Voetspore' team through Angola for a month. This popular series 'Voetspore Gansbaai to Gabon' can be viewed every Friday night at 1800 hrs on SABC 2. Episode 6 which will be shown this Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, is about their Angola adventure, and make no mistake it was an adventure long to be remembered through the 'Killing Zone.'

We have scheduled our 2009 tour programme, which includes a new Angola Adventure from the Cunene to Cuanza River. This route will take us east from Luanda to Malanje Province, where we explore the eastern side of Angola, and visit Pedras Negras du Pungo Andonga. This mixture of mystery and sheer beauty rises up suddenly out of the vegetation, indeed an extraordinary sight of interest. Huge granite stones of staggering power. We visit the Calandula waterfalls which are 105 meters high. The height and extreme width of these falls make them the main tourist attraction in the region. It certainly is a breathtaking sight.

We have also included tours to Namibia and the Richtersveldt on our menu. Our website [www.africa-bushcraft.co.za](http://www.africa-bushcraft.co.za) has been updated so please do have a look for more tour information.

All our best wishes for the future season.  
Koos & Isobelle  
Africa Bushcraft and Survival Adventures.

### **A STAR IS BORN**

SOUTH AFRICA - A star has been born ... and it is a young **leopard**. Zakumi, the 'green-maned' leopard has been unveiled as the official mascot of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Local Organising Committee CEO Danny Jordaan says Zakumi is proudly South African, and an



ideal ambassador for the first African World Cup. The mascot's name is a composition of 'ZA', standing for South Africa, and 'KUMI', which translates into '10' in various languages across Africa, including Swahili.



Inspired by his football idols, Zakumi has dyed his hair green as the perfect camouflage against the green of the football pitch.

**NEW AT 3 PROVINCES - 3 PROVINCES 4X4 ADVENTURES**

- Mountain Log Cabins now open
- Exiting New trail

For the whole Family - 4x4 Vehicles, Off-road Motorbikes, "Utility" Quads  
Place: 13,6km from Volksrust on Vrede road. Turn left at 3Provinces sign. 5km Gravel road.  
Contact: Ronel 082 785 8002 / 017 735 5286

**PEPPER-SPRAY WANTED FOR HIPPOS**

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) will not provide a group of rural women with pepper-spray to spray onto their crops and keep hippos at bay.

The women from Sibhejane and Zibokwane villages south of Komatipoort have been complaining about the hippos since February last year, eventually forcing a local induna to set snares, in which she has already caught one hippo. "We came together and wrote a letter to the MTPA urging them to remove the hippos from our river because they are destroying our fields," said local induna Emma Sambo. Private sugar cane farmers have suggested that the women buy pepper-spray to use on their crops to keep the hippos away.

**SPAM PROBLEMS ON FAVOURITE 4x4 FORUM SITE**

Sorry for the intrusion!

With immediate effect please use the domain <http://www.4x4community.co.za>, and not the domain that ends with .com, we are battling a serious spam attack and I need to make some system changes. Users using the .com domain may have hassles logging on.

Regards  
Dirk- Webmaster

**BRIDGE REPAIRED IN NORTHERN MOZ**

A new bridge has been constructed over the Lugela River in northern Mozambique after floods destroyed the previous bridge in 1998 and again 2001. The 270-metre bridge is one metre above



that the highest recorded water level of the Lugela River and connects the districts of Mocuba and Lugela. The new bridge means that travellers will no longer have to make to 100 kilometres detour to drive between Mocuba and Lugela.

**ACCIDENTS HAPPEN QUICKLY!!!! – EXTRACT FROM A REPORT – LESSONS TO LEARN**  
**WORKING IN THE FIELD**

**WHAT HAPPENED**

The driver was slowly driving along a bush track in a Nissan Patrol Ute. The wheel of the light vehicle ran over a dead branch lying partially across the road. The dead branch flicked up and drove through the plastic drain plug in the floor pan. The dead branch then travelled through the passenger seat protruding some 150mm.

**CONSEQUENCES**

The branch could have easily protruded through the driver's seat causing a fatal accident. The vehicle could have carried a passenger who would have sustained serious injuries.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

The Nissan Patrol was driving off road and drove over a dead tree branch lying on the track. The weight of the vehicle snapped the branch and the force of downwards pressure has projected the branch through the plastic drain plug and up through the passengers seat.

**CONTROLLABLE CAUSES CORRECTED TO PREVENT RECURRENCE**

When driving on bush tracks and an obstacle is lying in the path of a vehicle, stop if practicable to do and remove the obstacle.  
Detour around the obstacle if unable to safely remove the obstacle from the path.

**DETAILS OF INCIDENT AND LESSONS LEARNT ARE COMMUNICATED AND LEARNT**

This safety alert is communicated to the other projects for their review, their own determination whether this type of incident would happen on their site and dissemination to their contractors.

Andrew Sharpe  
Calibre HSE Superintendent  
Brockman 4 Project



A photo showing this piercing...OUCH!!!!

**ATTENTION ALL MOTOR ENTHUSIAST'S**

Please visit [www.autocradleestate.co.za](http://www.autocradleestate.co.za) for more information on our new and exciting venue for all motor enthusiast. Please contact us for booking and for more information. Bring you family for a nice Sunday breakfast in the Magaliesburg Mountains.



What more can automotive brands ask for. A car conference venue for cars where you can show off, launch current models, have vintage car shows, have test drives in the Cradle of Humankind. Motoring in "The Cradle" has never been more exciting. Created by well-known sculptor Charles Gotthard and owner Willem Prinsloo, we have established the perfect venue for families and motoring enthusiasts alike.

This concept was born out of a need to create team work within the auto industry, ranging from fun days spent in our area, corporate functions in the form of rallies or "Amazing Races" and also problem solving workshops run by qualified facilitators that can assist in making your corporate and auto company a more exciting experience.

Our intention is to develop a motoring estate on a 6 ha prime property bordering Maropeng (Better known as The Cradle of Humankind.) Only 70 km from Johannesburg and 90 km from Pretoria, Auto Cradle Estate is in the middle of the Magalies Meander and is the perfect destination for a country getaway. The ideal setting for a new vehicle launch, car club meetings, bikers rallies or a conference in the country.

Added to our venue's attraction's is a private dining area for parties up to 100 guests and also small conferences accommodating 20 to 50 delegates. We also specialise in birthday parties, 21st parties and children's birthday parties - any age and any theme from girls tea parties to survivor parties.

We have also now added a 4x4 and quad bike track to our facilities as well as a sport's bar with a big screen TV for all major sport events. Facilities include:

- Restaurant
- Bar
- Coffee Shop - Now Open Wed to Sun for breakfast, light lunches and sweet treats
- Conference Room
- Function/Launch Centre
- Braai Area
- Quad bike and 4 x 4 track
- Children's play area with sand pit and jungle gym
- Sports Bar

Contact: Elmarie Smith – 079 494 8075

**ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN TUSKERS OF THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, DUKE, HAS NOW BROKEN BOTH HIS TUSKS.**

On Monday, September 1, 2008 Crocodile Bridge Section Ranger Neels van Wyk was alerted by the Shishangeni Concession that one of the game drives from this concession lodge had seen Duke without either tusk earlier that morning. He quickly drove out to the scene to find that it was true. "I am looking at Duke now," he whispered over the telephone, "and Duke has definitely broken his right tusk."

According to Van Wyk, he had received a report during the preceding week that Duke had been spotted by a visitor on the S-28, a looped 24-kilometre long gravel road, running on the eastern side of the main road between Lower Sabie and Crocodile Bridge rest camps, and that he still



had his right tusk. "It would then be reasonable to assume that the tusk was nearby to where Duke was that morning," surmised Van Wyk, as the S-28 runs along the western boundary of the concession.

Van Wyk then back-tracked along Duke's spoor and, thanks to an enormous slice of luck, found the tusk, which measured approximately 1.56 metres on the outside of the curve and which weighed approximately 32 kg. Now this amazing achievement by Van Wyk and his field rangers brings something notable to the KNP's already impressive book of elephant ivory records.

They were part of the team to discover and recover not one but two tusks belonging to the same known and named "tusker" elephant. For the record, named tuskers have broken off tusks before, for example, one of the famed "Magnificent Seven" – João - broke his impressive tusks in a fight with another bull in 1984, but neither of these pieces of ivory were ever recovered or positively linked to that elephant.

The amazing story of tusk recovery begins just over a year ago. On Monday, August 20, 2007 two friends and Duke enthusiasts from Johannesburg, Matthew Harding and Dirk Human spotted Duke on the S-28, just south of Lower Sabie and took what are probably the last known photographs of Duke with both sets of tusks. At around 16:00, the duo then drove back to camp where they had arranged to meet up with another Duke aficionado, Jonathan Heger. After unhooking Heger's caravan, the trio made their way to the exact spot and spotted Duke again, but noticed something different. Duke seemed to only have one tusk. They then took plenty of photographs and ensured that they marked the exact spot from where they saw Duke with GPS readings, before heading back to camp.

Harding, Heger and Human then reported the sighting and their suspicions to KNP officials, which resulted in Crocodile Bridge Section Ranger Neels van Wyk going into the bush the very next day (Tuesday August 21, 2007). His mission: he had to try and find the missing piece of tusk, thus positively proving that Harding, Heger and Human's assessment of the situation was accurate and, of course, to recover a rather valuable piece of ivory from the dense Bushveld.

Unfortunately, Van Wyk's search proved fruitless: "It was a bit like searching for a needle in a haystack, so I called off the search with the idea of recruiting the KNP's new Bantam Ultralight Aircraft to help," explained Van Wyk at the time.

On Thursday, August 23, 2007 the Bantam took to the air with pilot (Tshokwane Section Ranger) Steven Whitfield and observer Van Wyk with the GPS coordinates provided by Harding, Heger and Human and flew to the spot. "We flew along the Mbyandzwuspruit and made one turn and Neels saw the ivory lying under a leadwood bush," Whitfield explained at the time, "so we marked the spot and flew back to Crocodile Bridge and our vehicles."

The two section rangers, plus various other interested parties, including Heger (Harding and Human unfortunately had to return home earlier that week), walked in to the GPS reading and found the tusk. This right tusk measured 175 centimetres in length, 49 centimetres in circumference and weighed 37.05 kg.

All in all, this incredible individual elephant has lost a whisper over 69 kg in just over a year. In both cases, it appears that digging up trees seems to be the cause of the breakages, but he still shows the temperament that has helped to make him one of the most popular tuskers in the 110 years of KNP history.



He is probably the most photographed of all the tuskers and is described as having a “very relaxed disposition” by most of the people that see him, KNP staff members and KNP visitors alike.

According to the book “Great Tuskers of Africa”, by Johan Marais and David Hadaway, Duke was the largest of the current crop of KNP tuskers, until he lost his tusks. He was named after the borehole Duke found in what is believed to be the centre point of his impressive range. Duke borehole, according to “A Dictionary of Kruger National Park Place Names” by JJ Kloppers and Hans Bornman, is situated 10 kilometres south of Lower Sabie Rest Camp, next to the Shimangwana Creek. This borehole is, in turn, named after ranger Tom Duke who was stationed at Lower Sabie from 1903 to 1923.

Marais and Hadaway go on to describe Duke’s range as such: “This docile bull is most often seen between Crocodile Bridge and Lower Sabie on the S28, or on either the H-10 or S29/S122 leading northwards from Lower Sabie towards Tshokwane.”

Duke has been reported further north than Tshokwane and has been seen to the east of Malelane, which puts his range as the entire south eastern area of the KNP. Apart from his docile character and two broken stumps, Duke can still be recognised by a square-shaped notch on the lower lobe of his left ear and he is usually in the company of between three and four “Askari” bulls.

Duke seems to be in good health, in spite of the fact he is no longer in possession of what made him famous, the largest set of tusks of any living elephant in the KNP, and possibly the world. That mantle has probably been taken over by Hlanganini, a tusker found in the region of Letaba and Olifants rest camps.

### **OFF THE BEATON TRACK – OCTOBER 2008**

To all our valued and loyal friends, a warm hello from a very hot and dry Tuli Wilderness Trails, I trust that you are all well and have had a great year so far. Thanks to all of you for your continued support, we sincerely appreciate it.

When I mentioned above that I was writing from a very hot and dry Tuli Wilderness Trails, I mean it. The last decent rains we had were in January, so it’s been nine months without rain and temperatures of up to 40 degrees over the last month or so. You can imagine what this combination does to the landscape and vegetation. It is like a moonscape and looks desperate, but even in this state it is still stunning, providing better game sightings of often skittish species like Eland, not easily seen in the well vegetated seasons.

Although the dam has been repaired, it has obviously not filled up due to the lack of rain. Even though it is still extremely dry, some of the Mopane trees are already budding new leaves, silky soft, bright green ones. The Apple Leaf trees are in blossom and when you look down the river from a high point you see patches of beautiful purple in between the grey. The Large Fever Berries are also busy regaining their leaves which adds more spring green to the riverine area. Quite a few of the migrant birds have returned including Black Cuckoo (very early this year), Red Chested Cuckoo, Broadbilled Roller and European Bee-eater. The usual suspects like the yimp-rrrrrring Woodland Kingfisher will return with our first rains.



Elephant sightings have not been as good as they usually are at this time of the year, mainly due to the dam having no water and so the larger herds have moved from our area for a while. Those that remained have changed their whole mini migration route and are concentrated along the Limpopo River where there are still a few nice deep pools.

As usual, there have been the odd adrenalin moments with the Big Feet. The most memorable for me was on a Wilderness Trail earlier on in the year. While walking between Musth Camp and Rutt Camp we encountered a large herd. We retreated and then skirted around them up onto a ridge. There was one rather young bull on the ridge which I assumed would smell us and go back to his herd at the bottom of the ridge. He was very hesitant to descend and I couldn't understand why. We continued our ascent and eventually the young ducktail descended. Exhausted from the brisk stiff climb, we reached the top, gratefully sat down for a rest and watched the herd below. The young bull was with the herd for a short while and then started charging at us, but always stopped at the base of the ridge. We all found it quite amusing. Then he made another charge and didn't stop, he just kept coming at us right up the ridge. All of a sudden we realized what was going on. Very close behind us, a deep rumble of an adult elephant suddenly shook us all into life. I had assumed that the young bull belonged to the herd below us, meanwhile he belonged to a herd very close behind us and that was his frustration. We grabbed our bags and dashed to the other end of the ridge, not waiting to see the reunion between the cheeky youngster and his mother. Just goes to show - don't ever assume in the bush.

I think this has been our best winter for lion sightings, since I have been here. Lots of guests got to see them on game walks and drives. Two incidents with lions come to mind when I think back over the last six months.

The first one occurred whilst on the third night of a Trail when we were using Mohave Camp. It was a stunning crisp winter's evening, a beautiful Full Moon with the typical no cloud at all. The Mohave riverbed looked like a dazzling white beach, the trees and bush all looked surreal and you didn't even need to use a torch, it was almost like early daylight. We had finished dinner and all the Trailists had gone to bed. I was having a last cigarette on the small deck before I went off to hit the hay, enjoying this beautiful night. I heard something running to the right of me and by the sound of it, knew it was something large and unusual. As I turned to look, a huge lioness appeared in the riverbed and ran across disappearing into the thick vegetation on the other side. I thought that I was seeing the last of her, but decided to wait for a while on the off chance that she would reappear.

Ten minutes later she did. I saw her walking towards me from about 75 metres upstream. She almost looked like a white lioness. In that moonlight on that white riverbed, this beautiful creature in magnificent condition was a sight to behold. I was awe-struck! She just kept walking towards me and with each step she took closer, she got larger and more beautiful. She eventually turned out of the riverbed about 10 metres from me and disappeared into the stunning crisp cold night.

Five minutes later, she reappeared just behind the camp and started to roar, a full bodied roar that made the whole camp vibrate under the Full Moon. She was silhouetted as I watched her roar and each time she roared, vapour blew from her mouth - awesome, awesome! She eventually turned and walked away from the camp at a steady pace still breathing vapour.

That night will remain in my mind for the rest of my days and rates as one of the most quality wilderness experiences I have ever had the privilege of being part of. The other incident occurred in July. We'd had a party of guests staying at Mohave and most of the guests left, but two guys



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stayed on for two extra nights. On their last night, they had an experience that I don't think they will ever forget.

My son Joshua and a friend of his had been camping about 3 kms from Mohave, their varsity holiday was about to end and they still hadn't, in almost 3 weeks, managed to see a lion. I was sitting with them just after dark at their campsite, when Actor, one of our Guides radioed us and said that he and the 2 guests had just seen a lioness at the waterhole close to the camp. Josh and his friend leapt into their vehicle and took off to find the lioness. They arrived at the waterhole and, as is often the case - no lioness and much disappointment.

They decided to drive past the camp on the off-chance of finding her. As they approached Mohave, there she was, walking straight down the track towards the camp. With the spotlight, they followed her right into the camp where the 2 guests were enjoying a beer. According to Josh, the guys heard the vehicle coming and looked to see who it was. As their eyes moved towards the vehicle, both pairs of eyes stopped short of the vehicle and froze on the lioness in the spotlight not 20 metres from them. The reality of the situation took about 10 seconds to set in, and within another 2 seconds, both guys were in a hut, door locked and lights on. The lioness just walked on by, totally unfazed and gave Josh and his friend another few minutes of herself before disappearing into the night.

Josh and friend went back to the guests in camp and told them that the lioness was gone and it was safe to come out. Apparently the guys emerged from their hut very sheepishly – and the nervous laughter started.

Leopard sightings have increased a lot over the past few months, and we were even lucky enough to see one while on foot doing a Trail recently. As usual, Cheetah have been the most commonly seen of the large cats, mainly around Mohave. Our best bird sighting of the year so far was a Pels Fishing Owl at Pels Pool. They have been absent for a few years and it was wonderful to see one again. We were doing our last walk of a 4 Day Trail around Pels Pool when we saw it, alerted to us by some very agitated Meve's Starlings. This beautiful tawny-coloured, seldom-seen owl was openly perched in a Sycamore Fig and let us view her until it got dark and we had to go. As is so often the case when you find a Pel's, guests you are accompanying aren't keen birders (if at all!). This particular group was from the UK, and the trail was their last stop after visiting places in the Okavango Delta for 2 weeks. While I was almost doing flick-flacks in excitement and pointing it out to them, I got a rather bored: "Oh very nice, but we saw 3 of them in the Delta." Well you win some and lose others.

Folks, these are just some of the goings on at TWT over the last few months, I could carry on for longer, but I'm ending off now to try to find some ele's than sit in front of this monitor anymore today. Hopefully we will get rain soon – the skies are promising most evenings now.

Once again, thanks so much for all your support, take care and until we meet again soon.

Regards

Craig and the TWT team

[www.tulitrails.com](http://www.tulitrails.com)

### **BUY YOUR CURIOS HERE**

In line with the 'People and Parks' programme, a partnership between local communities and KZN Wildlife has created a number of craft markets that are in, or adjacent to, some of the bigger KZN Wildlife parks. Clay pots, traditional Zulu beadwork, mats and baskets from Lala palm or



Ncema grass are just a few of the wonderful array of crafts that are available, made from renewable and sustainable resources.

One of the largest of these craft markets is Vulamehlo at the Centenary Capture Centre in iMfolozi. There are markets at Sodwana Bay, St Lucia Estuary and at several reserves in the Midlands and in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park. Apart from stimulating the local economies, these markets provide an opportunity for visitors to take home genuine handcrafted mementoes of their holidays.

**ECLIPSE OF THE SUN - JANUARY 2009- MARK THE CALENDAR**

Get ready now for the January Eclipse of the Sun. All of South Africa will see a partial eclipse of the Sun from 7:15am to 9:30am on Monday January 26th, 2009. The eclipse will be 23% for Musina, 65% for Cape Town. More details are at [www.planetarium.co.za](http://www.planetarium.co.za).

We know this is very advance notice, but . . . **We need your help!**

The Jhb Planetarium seems to be the only potential local supplier of the cheap cardboard “eclipse glasses” traditionally used for eye protection while watching the eclipse. These will be printed and assembled locally, and fitted with filter material supplied by a US optics company. We have located printers and a filter supplier, but need to get some (about 30,000!) orders in before we can buy a roll of filter material and start production. Production must start in November, before the Christmas shut-down.

Many of the people on this list understand the experience of watching relatively simple celestial events (like eclipses), and sharing this with family and friends. You know the satisfaction of enabling others to appreciate the simple mechanics of the Universe.

The above is what we are struggling to explain, and you could help.

**You can help by:**

- passing the word around about the eclipse,
- ordering eclipse glasses now for your workplace or school, so we can get started with production, and
- getting out onto the streets on Jan 26th, with friends, colleagues, family, and complete strangers passing by, to share the eclipse .

We would like to get the whole country out experiencing the eclipse, especially since 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy ([astronomy2009.saaq.ac.za/](http://astronomy2009.saaq.ac.za/)). It takes just a minute to see the eclipse, and it need not be expensive - the "eclipse glasses" are designed to be passed around easily, and you only need a few for a group.

Prices for viewers ordered before 3rd Nov will cost:

- R10 each
- R8 each for 10+
- R6 each for 10+ [ for schools only ]

The above include VAT and exclude postage. An order form is at [www.planetarium.co.za](http://www.planetarium.co.za)

Potential re-sellers of the glasses should contact us for prices. Companies wanting to sponsor eclipse glasses for schools could also contact us.



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Thank you  
Claire Flanagan  
Jhb Planetarium - University of the Witwatersrand  
[www.planetarium.co.za](http://www.planetarium.co.za)  
[planet@planetarium.co.za](mailto:planet@planetarium.co.za)  
011-717-1390

### **NO STOPPING TOYOTA!!!!**

Research company Synovate has released the findings of its Quality Studies for 2008, with passenger cars showing their best results since the survey was first introduced in 1992. There has been some movement in the rankings from last year, Synovate's client services director Richard Rice said, but the industry has again performed "remarkably well".

The Quality Awards form part of Synovate's Competitive Customer Satisfaction research and measure the number of problems new car owners experience within the first few months of ownership. Product quality is measured by problems per 100 vehicles (PP100).

"The problem count on passenger vehicles has decreased from 117 problems per 100 vehicles to only 103 problems. This is the lowest score since the survey began in 1992. "It is also a very probable indicator that by this time next year, product quality will have improved to such an extent that on average there will be less than one problem per vehicle purchased," Rice continued.

"The achievements of the LCV brands are notable" says Rice, "and we are now seeing scores that dip well below the 100 problems per 100 vehicles mark. To achieve this across a full model range is outstanding and South African LCV drivers and owners can be confident that they will enjoy top level product quality." More than 55 000 vehicle owners were interviewed, although models with less than 50 interviews were excluded from the ranking.

#### Passenger Car Category Awards

Best Local Plant Manufacturing Passenger Cars

Gold: BMW (67 PP100), Mercedes-Benz (70 PP100)

Silver: Toyota (79 PP100)

Best Luxury Car Brand Overall

Gold: BMW (68 PP100), Mercedes-Benz (69 PP100)

Silver: Volvo (108 PP100)

Best Volume Passenger Car Brand Overall

Gold: Toyota

Silver: Chevrolet

Bronze: Renault

Passenger Car Segment Awards

Entry Segment

Gold: Toyota Yaris T1 (32 PP100)

Silver: Ford Ka (94 PP100), Chevrolet Spark

Worst: VW Citi (242 PP100)

Small Hatch



Gold: Toyota Yaris T3 (60 PP100) and Opel Corsa (excluding Lite) (63 PP100)  
Silver: Chevrolet Aveo five-door (68 PP100)  
Worst: Fiat Palio (164 PP100)

**Small Sedan**

Gold: Toyota Yaris Sedan (60 PP100), Toyota Corolla 140i (62 PP100)  
Silver: Chevrolet Aveo Sedan (73 PP100)

**Top Hatch**

Gold: Mercedes-Benz A-Class (77 PP100)  
Silver: BMW 1 Series (excluding Cabriolet) (85 PP100)  
Bronze: MINI Cooper (95 PP100)  
Worst: Dodge Caliber (196 PP100)

**Top Sedan**

Gold: Toyota Corolla (88 PP100), Mazda 3 (92 PP100)  
Silver: Renault Megane Sedan (99 PP100)  
Worst: Nissan Tiida (117 PP100)

**Medium segment**

Gold: Toyota Avensis (55 PP100), Mercedes-Benz C-Class petrol (63 PP100), BMW 3 Series (64 PP100)  
Worst: Mazda6 (122 PP100)

**Top Executive**

Gold: Mercedes-Benz S-Class (28 PP100)  
Silver: BMW 5 Series (52 PP100)  
Bronze: Mercedes-Benz E-Class (66 PP100)

**Sports Coupe**

Gold: Mercedes-Benz CLK (54 PP100), BMW 3 Series Coupe/Cabriolet/M3 (56 PP100), Mercedes-Benz SLK (57 PP100)

**MPV / Station Wagon**

Gold: Toyota Corolla Verso (70 PP100)  
Silver: Mercedes-Benz B-Class (87 PP100)  
Bronze: Toyota Avanza (105 PP100)  
Worst: VW Caravelle T5 (191)

**Small Recreational Vehicle**

Gold: Toyota RAV4 (62 PP100), BMW X3 (65 PP100)  
Silver: Toyota Fortuner (72 PP100)  
Worst: Jeep Cherokee (160 PP100)

**Large Recreational Vehicle**

Gold: Toyota Prado (41 PP100)  
Silver: Land Rover Discovery (57 PP100)  
Bronze: Mercedes-Benz M-Class (72 PP100)  
Worst: Land Rover Defender (298 PP100)



Light Commercial Vehicle Category Awards  
Best Local Plant Manufacturing Light Commercial Vehicles  
Gold: Toyota (93 PP100), Isuzu (94 PP100)  
Silver: Mitsubishi

Best One Ton Diesel Light Commercial Vehicle Overall  
Gold: Toyota (103 PP100), Isuzu (113 PP100)  
Silver: Nissan (156 PP100)

Best One Ton Petrol Light Commercial Vehicle  
Gold: Toyota  
Silver: Isuzu  
Bronze: Nissan

Best Overall LCV Brand  
Gold: Opel (85 PP100), Toyota (94 PP100)  
Silver: Isuzu (109 PP100)

Light Commercial Vehicle Segment Awards  
Half Ton  
Gold: Opel Corsa Utility (85 PP100)  
Silver: Ford Bantam (129 PP100), Nissan 1400 (135 PP100)  
Worst: Fiat Strada (236 PP100)

Petrol Single Cab  
Gold: Isuzu KB (71 PP100)  
Silver: Toyota Hilux (83 PP100)  
Bronze: Nissan Hardbody (138 PP100)  
Worst: Mitsubishi Colt (143 PP100)

Diesel Single Cab  
Gold: Toyota Hilux (97 PP100), Toyota Landcruiser Pickup (97 PP100)  
Silver: Mitsubishi Colt (107 PP100)  
Worst: Mazda Drifter (245 PP100)

Petrol Double Cab  
Gold: Toyota Hilux (63 PP100)  
Silver: Nissan Navara (116 PP100)  
Bronze: Nissan Hardbody (163 PP100)

Diesel Double Cab  
Gold: Toyota Hilux (113 PP100), Isuzu KB (124 PP100)  
Silver: Nissan Navara (140 PP100)  
Worst: Mazda Drifter (303 PP100)



## NAVIGATORS FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE ADVENTURES

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](mailto: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.

Our tours are about absorbing the sights, sounds and smells of Africa, observing wildlife in its natural habitat, learning more about interesting and diverse cultures, relaxing around a campfire under star-studded night skies, and exploring new and exciting places. Visit the 'testimonials' page on our website to read what some of our guests have said about touring with Navigators... and join us soon on a journey of discovery.

During August we launched our new 19-night Zambia "Explorer" tour, accompanied by Jazz Kuschke of Getaway Magazine and ten magazine readers in their own vehicles. Look out for Jazz's article on this amazing tour in the December or January edition of Getaway.

### Kalahari "Black-Maned Lions": Kgalagadi – 9 Nights (Kuruman to Upington)

**Tour Dates: 1 – 10 February 2009**

Our favourite time to visit the Kgalagadi: summer rains turn the grasslands green; the pans and ephemeral rivers sparkle with standing water; and the usually-blue skies are often still painted with an impressive build-up of clouds; the sun sets as a pink-and-orange fireball on the horizon; and the magnificent lions are often found around camp... Our focus is on the remote Mabuasehube region in the Botswana side of the KTP with its unfenced campsites, white pans and long-grass savannah. Our tour dates maximise on the 'rain season' in this area - a time when the wildlife almost seems content and relaxed, as the usual struggle for water and food diminishes with the onset of the rains.

### "Central Kalahari Game Reserve" – 10 Nights (khama to Rakops)

**Tour Dates: 6 – 15 April 2009**

An expedition to the CKGR is for adventurous and bush-wise travellers with well-equipped 4x4 vehicles, and who are completely self-sufficient for travel in this remote and spectacular region. Join us on this 'adventure safari' and be rewarded with a memorable experience in one of Africa's great wilderness areas - at a time when the grasslands are green and the game-viewing is at its best!

**(March 2008)**



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

### **NEW 4x4 ROUTE IN NAMIB**

S.O.S. = Spencer Bay - Oyster Cliffs - Sylvia Hill

This new 4x4 route will take you through an area only a few diamond prospectors have explored some 80 years ago and we are proud to offer this product to our 4x4 clients for the first time ever!!

We now offer a 5-day trip into this area starting at Spencer Bay where our first overnight camp is situated.

On Day 2 we will venture North of Spencer Bay and start tackling the big dunes, which will take us probably the whole day until we reach the sea again some 40km north of Spencer Bay. Here we will take you to the reef of Knoll points and stand on the edge of Oyster Cliffs with stunning views. Here we will venture into a deep gully at the sea for overnight no 2. Spectacular coastline with unusual rock formations can be explored.

Day 3 will take us over the cliffs past huge whale bones scattered on the beach all the way to Easter Point, where diamond mining took place in 1924. An old truck with wooden spoked wheels near an old shack may be observed and the remains of steamship 'Balgowan Castle', which ran aground in 1904. We now travel along the beach, where the dunes will run into the sea to provide some extreme 4x4 challenges to pass. This will take us to another campsite at the sea for night 3.

Day 4 will take us through some magnificent dunes to Sylvia Hill, where a seal colony can be observed as well as the old stone circles built as shelters by the San people some 800 years ago. This is our turning point and we now travel in a south-easterly direction through a 'Narra' street past an old landing strip used by the famous diamond pioneer, M Kahan, until we reach Koichab Pan red dunes, where we spend one last night in the desert. Spectacular dune scenery for the photographers is present here.

Day 5 will take us back via Koichab Pan to reach the tarred road no later than 13h00 to give our travellers the opportunity to start their return trip to whatever their destination.

Megaworld 4x4 Adventures in conjunction with Coastway Tours based in Luderitz are running these trips. Launch price R 5800pp including 3 meals per day. Trip is 4 nights 5 days. Accommodation in Luderitz is not included.

Contact: Bernie Williams / [bernie@4x4mega.co.za](mailto:bernie@4x4mega.co.za)

### **NEW ADVENTURE**

Dear Alan,

I have recently come across your contact details on the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club website and hope you don't mind me writing to you.



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I have attached further information about the trails and mountain passes in the area including the awesome high altitude 'Eight Passes Challenge' which includes some of the highest gravel roads in the country and Naude's Nek - **the highest pass in South Africa**. A lovely map showing these passes can be found on the following link:

<http://www.wartrail.co.za/images/NEC%20Map%20passes%20large.jpg>

We also offer **off-road trails** on our guest farms ranging from easy to extreme in terms of difficulty. I do hope you find our offer of interest – please feel free to circulate details to your members via web or newsletter. By all means call me if you are interested in organising a club tour and would like to discuss rates and options further.

Kind regards

**Kate Nelson**

*Wild Mountain Adventures, Edgehill & Rosstrevor Guest Farms*  
*PO Box 10, Wartrail District, Barkly East 9786, Eastern Cape*  
**045 971 9064**

### **WORLD HABITAT DAY LAUNCHED**

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

In an age where for the first time half of humanity is now living in towns and cities, the quest for adequate shelter for all, along with basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity, decent health care, safe streets, to name only some, is more urgent than ever, especially in developing countries. There should also be no illusion that cities have the greatest impact on the environment and climate change. Where they are poorly managed, with weak governance structures, it is their citizens and their surrounds that suffer most.

Urgent action is thus needed to foster widespread use of new energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies to reduce urban pollution.

### **NEWS FROM SHEM COMPION – PHOTOGRAPHER OF NOTE**

I am in town for a few days, quickly editing through the images from Kenya and checking on a few e-mails.., before heading out for another whole month of photo trips, safaris and workshops.

### **Essay**

I did manage to write up an essay while away. Actually it was quite easy; Lake Nakuru is such an inspiring place it is very hard not to come away with some words. I had forgotten just how beautiful it is and I have really taken the place to heart. I have been researching the conservation history of the lake as well as the plight of the flamingos- it does not make for good reading. I will put my thoughts, as well as the facts, of course on a BLOG very soon. This months essay is straight from Nakuru and one I quite enjoyed taking- even if my camera did almost end up in the jaws of a Hyaena...



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#### Image collections

Some more "firsts" onto the website. Using some nifty software, I have created image collections of from the latest places I have been to. I have uploaded the first two- Lake Nakuru and the Masai Mara : both of which are spectacular venues for the natural history photographer. Very soon the Collections will have their own page on the site and as I continue to load image collections of my travels, you will get a glimpse the places I visit and the beautiful subjects I photograph.

#### BLOG

The BLOG has been a great success. It has become one of my most visited pages on the site- so thank you for reading it and do feel free to add your comments. The latest blog entries have covered the Masai Mara , Lake Nakuru and the flamingos as well as some recent wildlife awards I received.

#### Awards

Speaking of awards, I received three certificates in the recently completed Fuji film/Getaway wildlife awards. I received awards in three very diverse categories- Birds, Abstract and people and nature- Showing that I am not one for only the big and hairies! Read about and see them in my latest Blog entry.

#### Travel

Another month on the road and I will literally be travelling to the four corners of Southern Africa on tours, commissions and to present the Kgalagadi workshop. Speaking of tours and workshops, remember the Masai Mara tour for 2009 . There are still a few places available and if this year was anything to go by, 2009 should be excellent. See this years Masai Mara collection here ; just as a taster for 2009. [www.c4images-safaris.co.za](http://www.c4images-safaris.co.za)

Yours in marvelous photography,  
Shem Compion

#### **MONKEY CAUSES MELTDOWN**

A curious wild monkey caused a meltdown at a major electricity transformer in Nelspruit in Mpumalanga, plunging the 2010 host city into darkness for two hours. Municipal spokesperson Bessie Pienaar said on Tuesday that the adult Vervet monkey inadvertently managed to short-circuit the transformer last week Thursday, burning out key circuits and severely damaging the electricity interchange. "As a result, Nelspruit experienced a city-wide electricity interruption due to transformer failure," said Pienaar.

The blackout forced many businesses to close early on Thursday afternoon, with residents initially convinced that the cut was the unannounced start of new Eskom electricity rationing. The Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) regularly deals with lions, leopards and hippos that wander into residential settlements, but was not immediately available on Tuesday to say whether monkeys were viewed as problem animals.

#### **RAYTON 4X4 FUN DAY ON 29 NOVEMBER 2008**

We hereby take the opportunity to invite you and your members to our 4x4 Fun Day on 29 November 2008. This fun day is an annual fund raising event since 2006 and is a huge success. The event will be held in the centre of town for greater spectator value and on a farm close by.

There will be great entertainment for the children like swimming pools, slides, jumping castles,



go-carts and a crèche for the very small and lots of other fun. A braai after prize giving (16H00) with a beer garden and lots of food stalls. BIG PRIZES TO BE WON!!!!

Camping facilities with electricity – R100-00per stand  
Entrance: Spectators Adults R20-00, Children R10-00 / 4X4's - R250-00 per vehicle with driver and co-driver. Classes = Modified (Locker and non-locker) and standard

Entries can be done from 07H00 at the event, or on the web – [www.rayton.co.za](http://www.rayton.co.za) under Laerskool Rayton. Contact them for bank details.

Thank you and hope to see you soon.  
Regards,  
Christiaan Delport  
Tel: (013) 932 9400  
Sel: 082 731 2372

**VISIT THE KZN COASTLINE AND LIGHTHOUSES**

The KwaZulu-Natal South Coast's glorious coastline has long been a favourite summer holiday destination for all age groups. The golf courses are lush and green and many of the beaches are renowned to be the best in South Africa and have been awarded the Blue Flag Label, an international reward for excellent water quality, safety, service and ecological responsibility. The mild subtropical climate allows swimming in the warm Indian Ocean all year round and the warm winter months bring more visitors when the annual sardine run attracts game fish, whales, dolphins and birds, bringing the ocean to life!

The charming village of **Port Edward** is the southern-most holiday resort on the South Coast, with flawless and peaceful beaches that invite subathing and swimming. Host to the annual sardine run and surrounded by banana plantations, the village claims to have the smallest desert in the world, "Red Desert". A miniature version of the Arizona desert, it measures only 11 hectares where naked red soil builds a striking contrast to the lush, subtropical vegetation.

With 18 kilometres of coastline and stretches of rolling surf, ideal for surfing, **Port Shepstone** boasts unspoiled sandy beaches surrounded by warm waters rich in marine life. Just outside the town you will find Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve, a wonderfully scenic area with a prolific bird life, offering excellent hiking opportunities. Wildlife in the area consists mainly of antelope and high sandstone cliffs dominate this 24 kilometres long gorge carved out by the Umzimkulwana River.

Situated on a hillside, with spectacular all round sea views the town of **Umkomaas** is a must see on any scuba diving calendar. The famous Aliwal Shoal lies buried 5 kilometres out at sea and is home to a diversity of tropical fish, sharks and magnificent coral reefs. There are also exciting ship-wreck dives available to interested parties. Close by the town, one will find Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve, a combination of open grassland and coastal forest, which houses a wide range of wild animals and bird species.

For more detail visit <http://www.africa-adventure.org/>  
Melissa Mann



### **USING AN ATM IN MOZAMBIQUE – BEWARE!!! (THIS IS APPLICABLE TO SA TOO!)**

#### **ATM Safety Tips**

In addition to the possibility of being blown up, you can also just get shot. Recently a talented local wooden artist was shot at an ATM in Maputo. He had been exhibiting at the Cedarte Art Show and passed by the ATM at night on his way home when the incident took place. He died the following morning. Please be aware of your security while using ATMs. If possible, don't use an ATM at night and try to use ATMs which are in enclosed areas, such as in shops. If you must use an ATM at night, do keep the following in mind.

- Park close to the ATM in a well-lighted area. Take another person with you, if at all possible.
- If the lights at the ATM are not working, don't use it. If shrubbery has overgrown or a tree blocks the view, select another ATM and notify your bank.
- Be aware of your surroundings, particularly at night. If you observe or sense suspicious persons or circumstances, do not use the machine at that time.
- Have your ATM card ready and in your hand as you approach the ATM. Don't wait to get to the ATM and then take your card out of your wallet or purse. Do not count or visually display any money you received from the ATM. Immediately put your money into your pocket or purse and count it later.

#### **NO MORE MALARIA**

Swaziland aims to be next SADC country to eliminate Malaria. Mauritius was the first SADC country to wipe out the disease, with the last case reported on the island in 1997. The World Health Organisation declares a country to be malaria-free once the disease has been eliminated for three consecutive years.

Other countries in the region where eradication is possible are South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. Eradication of the disease will not only save lives but also have a positive impact on tourism, as prophylaxis are inconvenient and often have side effects such as nausea and sensitivity to the sun.

#### **ELEPHANTS RELOCATED TO MOZAMBIQUE**

Six bull elephants will be relocated to Gorongosa National Park (GNP) in Mozambique from the Kruger National Park (KNP) this month as part of a plan to restore the 350 000 hectare park to its former glory.

"I trust that this move will further cement the regional conservation role that the KNP has assumed since the establishment of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and that it will improve the already good working relationship we have with Mozambique," said KNP Managing Executive Dr Bandile Mkhize.

"The SANParks Veterinary Wildlife Services Game Capture Team lead by Dr Markus Hofmeyr captured four young adult bull elephants yesterday (Monday September 15, 2008) and two adult bull elephants are due to be captured on Monday September 22, 2008 in the southern area of the KNP. "We will be using our standard elephant capturing technique of darting the elephants from a helicopter and, after a brief diagnosis of their general health, they'll be loaded onto trucks and transported by road to Gorongosa," he explained.



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Private game capture company Specialist Game Services will then transport the elephants to GNP near the Mozambican coastal town of Beira, a distance of over 1 300 kilometres. SANParks is no stranger to these long-distance animal translocations, having itself translocated rhino to Zambia in 2003, 2006 and 2008, rhino to Botswana in 2003 and 2004 and captured Lichtenstein's hartebeest in Malawi and translocated them to the KNP as long ago as 1985.

The restoration of Gorongosa is currently underway and is supported by conservation organisation Carr Foundation. This United States-based non-profit organisation recently signed a 20-year co-management agreement with the Mozambican government to run the park and has invested more than US\$10-million to date.

The 2008 KNP elephant population census is currently underway. Last year's census revealed a total of 13 050 animals. "According to the Elephant Population Norms and Standards Document, which was released earlier this year, translocation is an acceptable means of population control. I thus believe that by helping to re-establish viable elephant populations in other areas, we are not only bringing slight relief to our situation but also helping to repopulate depleted populations elsewhere on the sub continent," concluded Dr Mkhize.

This elephant translocation is just one project where the KNP and GNP are working together for conservation. Fifty buffalo were translocated from the Skukuza Boma Complex to Gorongosa during 2006 and these will be joined by another consignment of buffalo during 2009.

### **KILLING OUR WORLD IN A PLASTIC BAG!**

In 2003 the US Environmental Protection Agency released data showing that between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide annually. As only 1% of the bags are recycled it means that the bulk are discarded into the environment – and this was 5 years ago, imagine what the quantities are now! It costs more to recycle a bag than produce it, so there is no economic incentive to deal with this problem.

Plastic bags photodegrade - which means that they break down in sunlight. However, they breakdown into more toxic petro-polymers which poison the soil and water we depend on.

Plastic bags end up in landfill sites but then wind and rain blow and wash them into other areas and into watercourses. A large percentage of the plastic bags end up as ocean-fill. The individual effect on wildlife is disastrous, whether the plastic is consumed by accident or animals become tangled in it. The effect of dumping toxic, carcinogenic waste, on life in general is suicidal!

Though South Africa put a price on plastic bags, it seems to only apply to some retailers and even supermarkets supply free thin plastic bags to separate items in the purchased bag! If we want to cleanup our environment, all plastic bags must be banned, as has happened in many other countries. We must use and reuse cloth and paper bags and stick to materials that can be recycled.

KZN Wildlife

### **RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**

The Power of Socially Conscious Tourists - BELOW are Statistics taken from Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa (FTTSA) website showing how the trend of responsible tourism is now affecting traveller's holiday choices...



- 67% of global citizens now want companies to go beyond their role of making a profit, paying taxes and employing people. They want companies to contribute to broader societal goals as well (Global Millenium Poll).
- 65% of UK tourists would like to know how to support the local economy and preserve the environment so they can behave responsibly when they go on holiday (Worlds Apart, Tearfund).
- 71% of UK tourists think it is important that their travel arrangements benefit the people living in the destination - through jobs and business opportunities (Worlds Apart, Tearfund).
- 52% of UK holidaymakers say they are more likely to book a holiday with a company that has a written code to guarantee good working conditions, protect the environment and support local charities (Worlds Apart, Tearfund).
- 53% of American travellers say their travel experience is enhanced when they learn as much as possible about local customs and culture. (USA Geo-tourism Survey).
- 95% of Swiss tourists consider respect for local culture to be highly important when choosing a holiday (Switzerland Travel Writers and Journalism Club).

### HELP SOMEBONE WHO IS HELPING A SMALL BOY RECOVER!

Hello to everybody

I am planning to travel around inside South Africa on my motorcycle for about a month starting in middle December. The idea is to ride as near as possible to the border and coastline of South Africa in a clockwise direction (from Pretoria, Barberton, Kosibaai, Durban, Wildekus, PE, Cape L'Agulhas, Cape Town, Alexanderbay, Bray(!), Mussina, Hoedspruit, Komatipoort, Barberton and Pretoria, only to mention a few). The estimated distance should be more or less 9 000 km dirt roads and back roads. The decision of the trip was taken on 9 October and a lot of arrangements will still have to be made before my departure!

The reason for this 'crazy' plan is twofold:

1. I have a great **passion for travel** and always wanted to do such a trip. I always say that my favourite destination is one where I have never been to before (have you ever been to Obobogarab, Hakskeenpan, Baardskeerdersbos or Grootmis? Me neither. What does it look like there .... ?).
2. I have always wanted to make a contribution towards helping my best friend, Riaan de Lange's (SARS NEU Pretoria) brother's son, Andrio (11 years old) , but never really knew how. **Andrio has Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia** and is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant. Funds are needed for the search and testing of possible overseas bone marrow donors since no suitable donor could be found in SA. Needless to say, it is an extremely expensive exercise. It is also important to make people aware of how they can help by becoming a possible bone marrow donor. This will not only benefit Andrio, but many other people who suffer from similar diseases. Furthermore, it is important to clarify the misconception that bone marrow tests and donations involve a "lumbar punch", which is not the case at all and actually involves minimal discomfort. Read more on the websites [www.andriodelange.co.za](http://www.andriodelange.co.za) and [www.sunflowerfund.org.za](http://www.sunflowerfund.org.za).

VIOLA! It did not take long to merge the above two ideas – a day or two to be precise!

My idea is to have flyers printed which I will hand out and chat to people about where ever I end up. I am also planning to visit institutions like local newspapers, clubs etc, to spread the message of Andrio and the bone marrow transplant fund. Further exposure will be through the printing of t-shirts and stickers for my bike containing the relevant information. Since I will travel mostly along



the coastal areas, I am hoping for exposure amongst holiday goers. As with many of my trips in the past, I will write a report about the trip upon my return. One of my reports, or at least part of it, was published in the September issue of the DriveOut/WegRy magazine. I hope the "Ommie Rand Vannie Land" (Ride Around the Land) trip report, or parts thereof, will also be published to give further exposure to Andrio's situation.

But, the above plans cannot be successful without the help of people like you.

YOU CAN HELP AS FOLLOWS:

1. Support Andrio and others directly. Read more by visiting
  - <http://www.andriodelange.co.za/how-can-i-help.html> and
  - [http://www.sunflowerfund.org.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=54&Itemid=123](http://www.sunflowerfund.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=54&Itemid=123)

OR

2. You can help me by sponsoring a part of my trip expenditure:
  - A meal during my trip (R20), and/or
  - Accommodation (R100) – *I will try to camp as far as possible*, and/or
  - A tank of petrol (R300) – *my bike's tank takes 33 litres!*, and/or
  - Any donation, however small, for items such as flyers, stickers, t-shirts etc.
  - Any funds received exceeding 50% of my expenditure will be paid into the ANDRIO DE LANGE BONE MARROW TRUST (Registration No. IT 930/08). Remember I will also do the trip for my own pleasure and cannot expect that donations should fully cover my trip expenditure.
  - My bank details are: FWT Pistorius, ABSA Hatfield, Branch code 632005, Account No: 10231027
  - Please send me your e-mail address with your details so that I can thank you and possibly send you a CD or internet link of the trip report. My e-mail address is [fritzpis@yahoo.com](mailto:fritzpis@yahoo.com) or [fpistorius@sars.gov.za](mailto:fpistorius@sars.gov.za)

Think of me during the festive season while I will be travelling the roads alone or if I need to sleep next to it! This will be the first time that I will tackle such a campaign and any ideas and proposals will be welcome.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY:

Think of, and pray for Andrio, his parents, family and other children who might not have a worry-free festive season like the rest of us.

Please spread the e-mail to everybody who you think may be able to help.

All the best

*Fritz Pistorius*  
*Senior Investigator, Hatfield, Pretoria*  
*National Enforcement Unit*  
*South African Revenue Service*  
*012-429 1851/082 461 7266*  
*[fpistorius@sars.gov.za](mailto:fpistorius@sars.gov.za)*



### **NEWS FROM KALIZO LODGE**

Dear All,

Well here we are again, with summer already started - very early and very hot. The July and September South African school holidays have come and gone and Kalizo was very, very busy.

We had a record number in our camp with 180 people on the Thursday and lo and behold on the Friday there were even more with a new record of 195 folk in the camp. 32 in the chalets and the remainder in the campsite. The weather was great, cool in the evening with lovely days, so hopefully a good time was had by all.

Our new ablution block was in full operation and many said it was the best that they had seen and used. With the three ablutions we had no problem with the greater amount of guests in camp

**SIR OSIS OF THE RIVER:** Our long awaited pontoon boat has been in great demand and has already done several camping trips down-river and was much enjoyed by all. Bookings for this unique Zambezi experience are streaming in. We take bookings for a Minimum of 3 Nights with a maximum of 6 persons. This way the experience is very individual and special. For as many days as you want, the Sir Osis will cruise down the river, stopping at one or two places, before selecting your campsite on a sandbank. We will also be doing some trips down the river towards chobe. Each trip will be planned around the guests' requirements.

**FISHING:** The fishing has been great with some really good tiger coming out and even more important there have been some good bream species. Nembwe is standing at 3kg on the board and 2.2kg humpback. 3 spot is only 2.2kg so there is lots of room for improvement. Kalizo is quite heavily booked for the next few months, so if you want to catch some good fish don't wait too long to book.

**BIRDING:** This is always a wonderful experience at and around Kalizo. Our most recent news is that MRS SHELLY SUNBIRD IS SITTING ON HER NEST. There are TWO females, but so far we can only find ONE nest or maybe the MALE SHELLY IS LIKE some other males we know that have more than ONE partner!! The shelly has stayed here all year round and has given all our birders great sightings. We are lucky to be the only ones in the caprivi region to have the shelly right in our garden - see our website for close up pictures taken by Harry. Thank you Harry.

Since starting this newsletter Mrs Shelly has had two babies and has left the nest. Of the two babies one is a male. We believe that there have been NO sightings of shelly sunbirds nesting in Southern Africa. We are just so blessed with the rich variety of waterfowl, all the grassland and forest birds around. Besides the Shelly sunbird, we always have our regulars - Copper sunbird, brown firefinche, hartlib's babblers, white crowned lapwing, coucals black, white browed, copperytailed and Senegal, Western banded snake eagle, Green pigeons, Slaty egrets and Rufous-bellied heron to mention a few. All the local birds are listed on our website.

**ELEPHANTS:** Part of the joy of living in the bush is experiencing the haphazard habits of the wildlife. The elephants are back and have no regard for our roads and fences. One was right in the camp the other night, (not when 195 were in camp, thank goodness), wandering all over the campsite, tugging at whatever he felt like eating. Martin, our reliable security guard called me at 2am to come and help chase "this naughty elephant" out of the camp. You can imagine what I said under my sheets!! I told Dan to take the truck and chase him, but he must have heard us coming as he was suddenly no longer there. This is the wonderful part of life in the bush.



If you are looking for a unique venue for a wildly exciting, romantic and never to be forgotten African **BUSH WEDDING**, then Kalizo could be just the place for you. **OUR MASILA house** is now complete and will soon be on our website. The house is separate from the rest of the camp - situated just as you come into the camp. with a wonderful view of the river. It is self-catering, with 2 bedrooms, bathroom, open plan kitchen/lounge with a braai outside. The beauty is that it has a big area in front of it, so if you are a big group some can stay in the house. while others camp just in front of it. Masila is particularly peaceful and quiet.

**YAMAHA:** Rob is going great guns with his Yamaha agency and has been kept so busy that he struggles to keep up with the demand, both for service and replacement and spares. He has gone to Johannesburg on yet another Yamaha Course. Remember if you need a good price and great service, you are more likely to get it via Rob than from head office. Should you need to contact him, call +264 66 686803 or cell + 264 (0) 812354085.

**ELECTRICITY!!** : Gosh did I spell that word correctly? We cannot wait!! The powers that be are busy with the beacons etc and sooooooooooon we shall be in the game of power sharing like everybody else. We have sold the small generator, but are keeping the bigger one for those Dark Nights that MIGHT happen. Power on tap has been guaranteed from the end of JULY, but we all know there are NO guarantees in life (and especially in Africa).

Nored is gaced with a BIG problem, in that there is tooooo much water in the bush so each time they dig a hole to put a pole in, it fills up with water. However, the level is dropping very fast. While they could probably put poles in now, there is a good possibility that with the muddy earth the poles could fall over, so we have told them to wait awhile to be sure - we have waited so long for this that another month will not make much difference. Hopefully my NEXT NEWSLETTER should have good news.

**TIPPER TRUCK AND FRONT END LOADER:** Dan & Rob have New Toys, that at the moment are keeping Dan busy all day upgrading the road to the lodge. A lot of work lies ahead, but in the long run I am sure you will all be impressed with the progress we are making on our road.

**TENTS:** If you don't have a tent, we now have new Zambezi Tents (2) which we will hire out to whomever wants to use them. These tents will also be used for camping trips on the river with our new Pontoon boat (Sir Oses of the River). Which goes into action next week.

**TOYS, BOOKS, COMPUTORS, CLOTHES, etc:** There are a couple of Schools in our area with which Kalizo is running projects, and we require whatever you don't need, ie, books, toys etc. etc etc. Just to give you a few examples, the school has a large library room, but with very few books, and the pre-school also has needs. There is a Laboratory which is being used as a classroom. I am sure there are many of you out there that have lots and lots of what-have-you that could be put to good use here. Cash donations are also most welcome.

**SECURITY:** Many people have been subjected to theft while on holiday **BUT NOT AT KALIZO**. It seems that many campsites in Botswana and elsewhere are having trouble with thieves who cut the tents open at night and steal cameras, bags, cell phones etc. AS A PRECAUTION PLEASE LOCK ALL YOUR GOODS IN YOUR CARS under the seats or anywhere that cannot be seen when looking into your car. If your alarm goes off at night at least you have a good chance of not losing anything, but if valuables are left in in your tent, you definitely will. Taking precautions ensures a wonderful holiday in the future.



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**WARNING!** Everybody please be aware that the Nata to Kasane road is being repaired. There have been some nasty accidents due to potholes. **ZAMBIA BORDER VISAS:** Visa prices have gone up to U\$55.00 p/p.

**KITCHEN:** We have started on the kitchen, once finished it will really look smart, with much more room. The wood for the decking has now arrived, once that has finished we will start on the restaurant. Well guys that's it for now.

**REMEMBER** Kalizo is a truly wonderful, unique, African experience. Get away from it all. Experience Africa as it is meant to be! Stay with us in simple thatched chalets on the banks of the mighty Zambezi river. Wake to the sounds of Nature, the fish-eagles cry and the African dawn, silent makoros slipping by and hippo's call. A haven for bird watchers, photographers and fly or lure fishermen, lazy days, starry nights.

From us all here on the Mighty Zambezi in our little Paradise Called Kalizo.  
Tight Lines & Happy Birding

**Val Sparg**

Tel +264 (0) 66 - 686802/3

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### **MAGAZINES JOIN FORCES**

AFRICA - In an unprecedented and unique collaboration, South African wildlife magazine **Africa Geographic** has joined together with the leading Geographical titles from around the world - Australian Geographic, New Zealand Geographic, Geographical and Canadian Geographic - in a global climate awareness campaign.

Each magazine commissioned and produced a feature from its part of the world that takes its readers into the day-to-day realities of climate change for people around the world. From the African continent, the magazine presents an investigation into how altered rainfall patterns and shrinking icecaps on Kilimanjaro have resulted in weakening flows of one of Tanzania's key rivers, the Pangani.

In 2000, this diminishing resource saw several outbreaks of communal violence along one of its tributaries and, although structures to manage conflict have now been put in place, the question still being asked is, 'Is this the start of the much-touted water wars?'

From there, the magazine moves into insights into sea-level rise from the perspective of the tiny Pacific island of Tuvalu; Arctic ice melt from Grise Fiord, Canada's most northern community and last outpost of the Inuit; the effects of climate change on the European wine industry and the effects of retreating ice in the Antarctic on the region's key seabird predators - penguins.

### **LIQUOR TRUCK HITS SAFARI VEHICLE**

13/10/2008 12:37 - (SA)

Johannesburg - The Kruger National Park (KNP) has suspended the trading licence of a liquor provider after one of the company's delivery trucks crashed into a game viewing vehicle. KNP spokesperson William Mabasa on Monday said the crash on the Skukuza to Lower Sabie road last Wednesday left at least seven people seriously injured.



"Our sincere sympathies go out to the victims of this accident, especially our visitors, and we hope and pray for a speedy recovery for all of them," said Mabasa. "But regarding the incident itself, we cannot allow this sort of behaviour to continue in the KNP and have decided to take action against the offending driver and the company he works for," said Mabasa. According to a ranger report the accident happened about 12:30 on October 8.

An open safari vehicle from Bushwise Safaris, Marloth Park was on one side of the road watching buffalo and another game viewing vehicle was on the other side watching elephants. According to eyewitnesses, a delivery truck from Galewil Liquors was approaching, allegedly at high speed, while at the same time another vehicle travelling in the opposite direction was driving between the game viewing vehicles. The delivery truck crashed into the back of one of the game viewing vehicles parked on the verge and pushed it 38m before it overturned.

The truck skidded a further 35m before it overturned into the river, said Mabasa. The truck driver and his co-driver were also seriously injured. The company's trading licence has been suspended, pending a full investigation into the accident. Mabasa apologised to guests and restaurant patrons for the inconvenience the suspended licence would cause, but hoped it would prevent similar incidents in the future.

- SAPA

### **NAMIBIAN UPDATES**

#### *Epupa joins Islands in Africa*

Susuwe is on the Kwando and Ntwala on the Chobe River. Epupa Falls Lodge in north-western Namibia is built on the bank of the Kunene River, which forms Namibia's northern border with Angola. The lodge is close to one of Namibia's favorite tourist destinations, the Epupa Falls, and villages of the traditional Himba people. Article from: [Travel News Namibia](#)

Epupa Falls Lodge previously known as Epupa Camp, now forms part of the Islands in Africa Collection, with its central reservations office in Windhoek. It is the first facility not located in north-eastern Namibia.

The first and best known lodge in the group is Implalila Island Lodge in the Zambezi River on the eastern-most island of Namibia

### **SIGHTINGS AT EZEMVELO NATURE RESERVE (BRONKHORSTSPRUIT)**

Ezemvelo has had a recent upsurge in carnivore activity. Leopards have been sighted frequently in and around reception including a young individual at the camping sight and a male just passed the reception bridge. The leopard killed a full-grown adult kudu cow and has come back on numerous occasions to feed on the carcass.

Judging by the photographs taken as well his tracks, this individual is extremely impressive and we look forward to seeing more of him in the future. In addition, serval, caracal, brown hyaena and aardwolf have very recently been sighted on night drives. This recent influx of sightings bodes well for the rainy season and we look forward to a very successful summer with many exciting experiences

### **LIONS MAUL KRUGER RANGER**

A Kruger National Park ranger was attacked and mauled by a lion on Friday, the park said. Spokesperson Raymond Travers said the incident happened around 8am while the ranger Rudi Lorst (32), was on a bush walk with eight tourists and an assistant trails ranger Phillip Gumede.



The attack happened near the Metsi-Metsi Wilderness Trails Camp, situated near Tshokwane picnic site, north of Skukuza rest camp.

The group was returning to their vehicle when they encountered a lioness with cubs. Lorist gave the lioness a wide berth but she continued advancing. He fired two warning shots before the lioness attacked him. She bit both Lorist's forearms and scratched his body and face before letting go and running away.

A helicopter from Skukuza, with the park's medical doctor on board Dr Pieter Oodendal, was dispatched to the scene to provide medical attention. All eight tourists were safe and would continue with their activities. Kruger National Park Wilderness Trails have been operating for 30 years without any animal causing fatalities and very few serious injuries

### **TIGER BAY RESORT - UME RIVER, KARIBA - ZIMBABWE**

Tiger Bay Resort is situated on the banks of the Ume River and overlooks the magnificent Matusadonha Mountain Range and National Park and is set on several hectares of shady forest on the steep western bank of the Ume River, an area which has been described by many as one of the most unique and scenic parts of Lake Kariba.

Accommodation is in 12 thatched en suite 2 or 4 bed A-framed chalets all fronting the Ume River and set amongst trees for privacy. All are comfortably furnished, accommodating a total of 34 guests. You can sit and watch the wildlife and birds in their natural habitat, appreciate the moods and sound of the water and truly get away from it all and relax.

The focal point of the complex is the spacious entertainment area that overlooks a swimming pool set amongst mature trees and lawn down to the river frontage. Downstairs is a dining area where meals are served and upstairs is a bar and lounge where guests can relax and enjoy a drink.

Rates for Tiger Bay are fully inclusive, with 3 meals, drinks (reasonable consumption) and 2 activities per person per day. Activities include game drives, game cruises, fishing, game and birding walks with a guide, bush dinner and champagne breakfast.

The use of fishing rods, tackle, bait and binoculars are available at no charge for guests.

The nearby Matusadonha National Park is well known for its concentration of game and the bird viewing is always fantastic and then of course there is the Fish Eagle with its famous cry! The place is rustic, the setting lovely, and fits into its surroundings perfectly. Tiger fishing is a big attraction for the avid fisherman and what could be better than being on a boat with the "always" magnificent views on Lake Kariba. Sunrise and sunset in this remarkable place are visions that will stay with you forever.

Access to Tiger Bay for your 4 x 4 holiday -

Self-drive to Tiger Bay- should only be undertaken in a 4x4 vehicle during the rainy season and a 4x2 raised body during the dry season. There are two possible routes and both journeys take approximately 8 hours from Harare. We can also arrange any fuel requirements.

We have had a good year so far, regardless of the uncertainty surrounding the country. We have had a steady stream of visitors, all of whom enjoyed their stay and had only good things to say about their activities, how warm and friendly the staff are at Tiger Bay and how they do their utmost to make their stay a pleasure.



Please contact us if you require any further information on Tiger Bay, or please visit our website, address below.

Yours in travel,  
CONQUEST TOURS  
2 King George Court  
**King George Road**  
Avondale  
HARARE, Zimbabwe  
Phone +263-4 332450/308960  
Cell +263-912 239 134  
Tiger Bay +263-11 409 795/23 434 620  
E-mail [conquest@mweb.co.zw](mailto:conquest@mweb.co.zw)  
Web site [www.club52.co.za](http://www.club52.co.za)

**THIS COULD BE YOU!: KRUGER PARK OUTING**

If we were to tell you that we held an amazing camp with 12 learners who are partially sighted visually impaired and deaf at the Kruger National Park your first reaction might be: "Wow! How were they able to see and hear?" This is a natural response for many people. Yet through the support of Outlook Safari two fully funded weekend camps were everything that the learners wished for.

After a drive in the park to find and describe the Big Five the evening under full moon was even more eventful. As we listened to the sound of birds pointing to bright shining stars the learners were able to construct beautiful wire artifacts of birds and animals just from the sounds they heard and the feel of the elephant jaws. One could see their inward expressions of joy and beauty through the colourful combination of wax wires that they used to construct the animals.

We want you our reader to have a similar experience and extend an invitation to you and a group of your friends or colleagues to come on a camp and gain a better understanding of disability. We shall apply the Eco-Access "twinning model" to let you experience the world of person with disability. We shall address your fears perceptions questions and let you have a practical experience of how possible and natural it is to interact with persons with disability. The invitation is open to anyone.

Dr Khanya Rajuli  
Chief Executive Officer  
[www.eco-access.org](http://www.eco-access.org)  
Tel. +27 (0) 11 477-3676  
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**KRUGER ROADS TO BE UPGRADED**

The Kruger National Park's roads will be upgraded in the next year, spokesperson Blake Schraader said on Friday. The upgrade would affect 40 kilometres of the park's 2 500 kilometres road network, including the Sabie River road, between the Kruger and Phabeni gates, the S-145 access route to Talamati Bush Camp, near Orpen rest camp, and the S-52 access route to Bateleur Bush Camp.



"We know that these routes are very popular with tourists so we have decided to keep them open in spite of the operation of heavy equipment on these routes," he said. "We would therefore ask visitors to take note of the additional signage placed in those locations and the directions from our staff members."

Schraader said the Crocodile bridge rest camp and entrance gate complex was being upgraded at the moment. "During this construction, the normal operations of the camp and gate complex will continue and visitors will still be able to access the park via Crocodile bridge throughout the construction phase of the project".

**2009 LAND ROVER G4 CHALLENGE SA PARTICIPANTS NAMED**

The four South Africans selected for the 2009 Land Rover G4 Challenge have been named from the 20 local finalists who competed over six days in the Eastern Free State Highlands and Lesotho for a place in the four-strong squad.

They are:

**Jeannie Bomford** - a professional sportswoman from Stellenbosch.

**Hanlie Booyens** - an architect from Stellenbosch.

**Craig Carter-Brown** - a farmer from Ixopo

**Richard Kolbe** - a management consultant from Johannesburg.

...who will travel to England in February to represent South Africa at the international selections for the Challenge itself. Two will be selected to represent South Africa. South Africa's Martin Dreyer is the Challenge's current champion.

South Africa is one of only two countries which chooses its entrants through a two-part regional and national selections process and these 20 included the eight winners, the eight runners-up and four wild cards from the 120 who made it to through the regionals. They were challenged on every level in a series of nearly 40 tasks designed to test their physical and mental stamina and intended to closely emulate the kind of challenges they will have to face during the three-week G4 Challenge in Mongolia in June 2008.

Tasks included running, mountain-biking, orienteering, kayaking, rope work, 4x4 driving, map work, compass work and GPS navigation. Roland Reid, sales and marketing manager with Land Rover SA, said: "Even the locations were chosen for their close resemblance to the terrain in the areas where the Challenge will take place."

The Philip Swanepoel Team Spirit Award, named in honour of an adventure racer who died in a helicopter accident in 2007, went to Tatum Prins "whose excitement and obvious enjoyment of her time in the Free State and Lesotho hugely increased the enjoyment of every person there".

**SA TRITONS BIGGER AND BETTER**

**By Dave Abrahams**

It's official: Mitsubishi's Triton bakkie is now proudly South African. After investing R200-million in a new assembly line, Mitsubishi is producing Tritons at parent company Mercedes-Benz' plant in East London for the SA market only.

It has also expanded the range with a club cab – two diesel and one petrol – and made some detail improvements, in particular to the front suspension. There had been some comments that the earlier, made-in-Thailand Tritons were under-sprung and under-damped at the front for



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rugged South African conditions, notably from rally legend Sarel van der Merwe, who uses them for Spirit of Africa contest

So, SA-market Tritons now have stiffer front springs, heavier damping and stronger front suspension mounting brackets which, SuperVan says, not only reduces their tendency to bottom in heavy going but also makes the steering more precise on tar and dirt.

He should know...

Certainly the local Tritons the media drove at the launch coped effortlessly with some very rocky patches on the off-road trails Van der Merwe had prepared for us on the Inkwenkwezi private game reserve – even a nasty downhill stretch that would have ruthlessly exposed any front-end shortcomings.

I was impressed with the car-like handling of the club cab on the drive from the plant to the reserve. The steering was distinctly better than that of the fully-imported double-cab Triton I reviewed in July 2007.

The club cab - that means two seats with a big space behind them for working gear - is a lot plainer than the four-passenger double cab. It's clearly designed as a working vehicle but the separate seats (trimmed in plain grey fabric) are just as comfortable. Aircon, a basic two-speaker radio/MP3/CD player and power windows are standard but you have to adjust the mirrors by hand.

There's a carpeted parcel shelf about 350mm wide behind the seats, ideal for toolboxes, hard hats, outer clothing and lunchboxes – stuff you wouldn't want to leave in the load box. Not having the cab's rear window right behind your head lends a pleasantly spacious feeling and permits a wider range of backrest adjustment.

It took me all day to figure out why the club cab looks so much better than the double-cab but I eventually realised it's all about the load box. The top of the double cab's load box slopes away from the cab and turns further down at the rear so that the vehicle looks as if its chassis is bent when viewed from any angle other than head-on.

The load box of the club cab is longer, of course, so its proportions are more pleasing in profile but, more importantly, its top is parallel with the ground so it looks neater and more purposeful. The club cab is rated to carry 938kg.

When the double-cab Triton was launched here in March 2007 it was available only with a 2.5-litre, 100kW diesel engine. The range was expanded in September of that year to include a 2.4-litre, 94kW petrol engine, a 3.5-litre V6 borrowed from the Mitsubishi Pajero that had to be revved hard to extract anything like its claimed 131kW, and a thumping great 3.2-litre, four-cylinder, intercooled turbodiesel (also ex-Pajero) capable of a muscular 118kW at 3800rpm and 343Nm at 3000rpm.

The club cab is available with the 2.5-litre diesel, the 3.5-litre petrol V6 and the 3.2-litre diesel, each with a five-speed manual transmission. The first two have rear-wheel drive but the big diesel has a mechanical all-wheel system derived from that of the Pajero with a second gearshifter to select two or all-wheel drive in high range and all-wheel drive in low range.



Controls low down on the right of the fascia lock the centre and rear differentials for really rough going.

**Prices**

- 2.5 DI-D Club Cab - R230 000
- 3.2 DI-D Club Cab 4x4 - R297 000
- 3.5 V6 Club Cab - R239 250

All SA Tritons come with a three-year or 100 000km warranty and a five-year or 100 000km service plan. Service intervals are 15 000km for petrol engines and 10 000km for diesel.

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**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](mailto:info@bhejane.com) / Web: [www.bhejane.com](http://www.bhejane.com)

**(January 2008)**

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

**NEWSLETTER READER FEEDBACK**

Hi Alan

I must congratulate your numerous newsletters that I had received over the years. They are packed with information. I take my hat off for you compiling the monthly newsletters; it must be a monstrous task! Thank you, it is fun to read.

Stephanus de Lange

*Hi Alan,*

*Many thanks and keep up the good work.*

*Peter Morrow.*



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OCTOBER 2008

Dear Alan,

Thank you for the emails I have been receiving with your most interesting News letters. Looking forward to receiving your forthcoming News letters in due course. Happy 4x4ing.

Best Regards

Louis J Botha - Bantam Trailers

Hi Alan

Thanks for the e-zine which we receive regularly, it is much enjoyed and all the hard work that goes into it is greatly appreciated. The wife and I recently returned from a 10 000km trip through Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. It is not as expensive as one would expect and everyone with a few weeks leave spare should consider this magnificent experience. The full report has been published on the SA4x4community website at <http://www.4x4community.co.za/forum/showthread.php?t=24027>.

Members planning similar trips are welcome to contact us for information at [andre.rentals@gmail.com](mailto:andre.rentals@gmail.com).

Kind regards

Andre Erasmus

PS. We found the Ngorogoro crater to be a tourist trap, felt robbed after a day there set us back \$400 (for 24 hours - camping) and ended up not going into the Serengeti at all. Local folks told us to rather go to Ruaha, but we had our hearts set on Serengeti. We should have listened. Fellow SA travellers who spent a few days in Ruaha told stories about encounters with game that left us green with envy. The other alternative is to go through to Kenya and enter the reserve from the Masai Mara at a third of the cost.

Hi Allan

Thank You for your dedication & commitment to responsible off roading. Is it possible & not too much of a schlep for you to update your records with my a new email address for me?

Kind Regards - Fazal

#### **HELP WANTED FROM OUR READERS**

Dear Alan,

I need some advice, hope you could help me, or refer me to somebody that done this before. We plan a camping trip in Mozambique (first time) over December, we booked place at Nscer do Sol.

I want to travel via Swaziland, to avoid Komatipoort (understand there are long queues there during December, possible via the Oshoek border post via Mbabane, Manzini then up to Namaacha border post, then to Maputo, the camp site is approximately 30km past Xai Xai.

Is this feasible, I am towing a Challenger, what would you recommend.

Regards,

Vincent van Rooyen

Cell +27 82 561 6679



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### TYRE ARTICLE RESPONSE

Hi Alan

Read the tyre report and I thought you might be interested to see what they don't say about Coopers tires. I used to be a fan, the mud pics show a new pattern coopers on the front and an old mud terrain on the back, neither of them doing too well.

My tread pictures only show the state of the old Coopers, however the new ones are going the same way, unfortunately my truck in Jhb at Afrishox for mods at present, when it returns I will take pics of the new tyres chunking in much the same way the old ones are famous for, if you are interested. I sincerely believe that although they are a good tire they certainly aren't without problems.

When I had to buy replacement tyres in Namibia on this trip, all I could get off the shelf was 265 Goodyear wranglers, too narrow for my cruiser, but I bought them non the less, at R3K per tyre, a rather expensive insurance policy, which to this day remains unused.

Before my next trip I will have to replace 4 tyres, what to buy – who knows, but not Coopers.  
Cheers  
Donald Pitt

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### **AFRICA BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL ADVENTURES**

ALL ITINERARIES, TOUR INFO, PHOTOS, COSTS CAN BE VIEWED ON [www.africa-bushcraft.co.za](http://www.africa-bushcraft.co.za)

#### **SURVIVAL TRAINING—PRACTICAL SURVIVAL ADVENTURE**

Apply for next dates - Advanced Survival Training available on Request.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OUR EXCITING 2009 SCHEDULE OF TRIPS!!!

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](mailto:kmoor@telkomsa.net)*

*WEBSITE: [www.africa-bushcraft.co.za](http://www.africa-bushcraft.co.za)*

*(January 2008)*



## *Fresh from the Bush – New Products*

### **NEW SHAKELIGHT PRODUCTS**

Shakelight South Africa has expanded its range to include 2 new incredibly powerful flashlights. Both are suitable for professionals and outdoor enthusiasts looking for exceptional power without having to carry around a torch the size of a small baseball bat.

Both models are supplied with rechargeable batteries (AAA or Li-ion) and are supplied with sturdy nylon belt holsters and charging accessories. These torches are as powerful (if not more) than their big brand competitors and as they are supplied with batteries and accessories, they offer your customers a better deal too!

Our trusted Shakelights remain popular with all consumers and are a fantastic and practical gift this Christmas. They remain the only truly battery free shake torch in South Africa. We have a **special offer** on all Shakelights until 31 December 08.

Visit our website for more information: [www.shakelight.co.za](http://www.shakelight.co.za)

### **TWO NEW TRAILERS FOR 4X4 FANS -**

Jurgens Ci, leaders in leisure, have announced they will launch two new 4x4 trailers at the 'Spring Fever' Pretoria Show, which runs from 27 August through 7 September. First of the two new models is the Jurgens Safari XT140 4x4 off-road trailer, which has a massive payload of 800 kg ... enough for the longest safari into the bundu. Second is the Jurgens XT75 4x4 heavy-duty luggage trailer, which is the bigger brother of the LT655 and LT670 trailers from Jurgens Trailers.

Features of the XT140 include twin 40-litre water tanks, a roof rack, and a spare wheel. The jockey wheel is removable, and there is a stow-away table bracket plus two large side-hatch doors and slide-out tray. In addition, there is room for an 80-litre fridge. Styling is rugged but aerodynamic, and the e-coated body has both skid and nudge bars to preserve the smart appearance of the trailer.

The XT140 has a box capacity of 1551 litres and a tare mass of about 600 kg. The nose cone provides an additional 330 litres of the space. Track width is 1640 mm and overall length is 3780 mm. The load space has dimensions of 675 x 1890 x 1900 mm (HxWxL), and the ground clearance is a useful 350 mm.

The XT140 features a run-in brake, Alko rubber torsion swing arm suspension with brakes and has 245/75 x 15" wheels.

Moving to the XT75, the main features are a roof rack, spare wheel, and removable jockey wheel. Like the XT140, it also has a stow-away table bracket plus a large side-hatch door and



room for an 80-litre fridge. The e-coated body is designed with an aerodynamic feel yet retains a rugged outdoor appearance.

Capacity of the XT75 is 1210 litres, and the tare mass is approximately 485 kg. There is also nose cone providing an additional 330 litres of space. Track width measures 1630 mm and overall length comes in at 3370 mm. The load space has dimensions of 675 x 1900 x 1700 mm (HxWxL), and the ground clearance is 355 mm.

The XT75 features Alko rubber torsion swing arm suspension without brakes and comes fitted with 245/75 x 15" wheels.

The Pretoria Show, which has been running for 69 years, has 42 000 square metres of undercover exhibition halls and 30 000 of outdoor exhibition space. There are also various arenas, an amusement park, a kids' area and food courts. More than 750 commercial exhibitors will be represented this year, and 30 000 visitors - including many families - are expected.

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**REMINDER TO ADVENTURERS**  
**Various Expeditions** **October 2008**

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

**CHRISTMAS SERENGETI EXPEDITION 2008**

18 Dec 2008 to 09 Jan 2009

Christmas on Zanzibar; Old Year's Eve near the Ngorongoro Crater; many beautiful spots visited en route...!!!

We have updated the estimated costs for the 2008 Expedition. If you have not received this updated information as yet or you still have not decided what to do over Christmas, please contact Jacqui immediately so that she can forward the said information.

**TRANS-AFRICA 2009**

**Western Side = northbound / Eastern Side = southbound**

Dave has eventually returned from the 2008 Trans-Africa Expedition and we are in the process of updating the estimated costs based on this 2008 Expedition as well as tweaking the itineraries. If you are interested in this wonderful once-in-a-lifetime adventure, then contact Jacqui so that she can forward the said information to you as soon as it has



been finalised. The deadline for the minimum number of persons is 30 November 2008. The 2009 northbound Expedition is planned to leave RSA (Louis Trichardt – Camp Africa) on 16 April 2009.

**4X4 TRAILS AND OVERLAND TOURIST GUIDE COURSE**

Planned dates for this year are:  
27 - 30 November 2008 in Louis Trichardt

Please contact Jacqui immediately to book onto any of these courses or for more detailed information.

Our contact details are:  
015 516 5717 Tel / Fax  
082 829 5421 Jacqui's mobile / 082 772 6682 Dave's mobile  
[info@masazane.co.za](mailto:info@masazane.co.za) / [dave@masazane.co.za](mailto:dave@masazane.co.za)

**April 2008**

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

### **BASS LAKE 4x4 DAY TRIP**

Hi Alan,

We at had a great day at Bass Lake, a very good course with some serious stuff, but in general a good mix of obstacles. There were no mishaps or damage to vehicles. I would like to thank all of the members and wives for their support and assistance today at my first attempt at guiding. I certainly would like to return there and do it again. We met the owner a Mr. Alan Pepper who needed to borrow some recovery equip. as some youngsters got themselves stuck. Had a chat with him at the end. It was quite a long trip, in excess of five hours, but very enjoyable. We spent a bit more time at some obstacles to test our vehicles and driving skills. Afterwards we went to the waterfront for a braai and found the picnic area and lapa to be very well laid out.

Once again Alan thanks again for putting your trust in me to take a group on one of your day trips, it is really an honour and a privilege to be part of such a wonderful and organized club. It is also great to be with the type of people who are members of your club.  
Nigel Wilshire.

*Just a quick note to say thank you to Nigel Wilshire (Guide) for the Bass Lake trip on Saturday. It was great to be able to enjoy the company of like minded enthusiasts facing the challenges presented by the obstacles on the trail. What was comforting was the assurance that you were leading our group and would provide guidance and advice wherever and whenever you identified the need. I am convinced that were it not for your excellent and professional guidance, there would certainly have been expensive damage to vehicles.*



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*We really enjoyed the friendly relaxed atmosphere that prevailed throughout the trip, even when very challenging obstacles were being attempted, and your willingness to allow group members to experiment even helping them with their experiments without chasing them on. You certainly got a lot of physical exercise running around looking after us all and you must have been exhausted at the end of the day. Thank you also for allowing us to find the Geocache that was on the route.*

*Joan and Martin have also expressed their thanks and have indicated that they will send their photographs to you in the next day or two.*

*Thanks once again. Regards  
Rod, Joan and Martin Pistorius*

### **MATEKE 4x4 DAY TRIP (OR WAS THAT DAY & NIGHT TRIP!)**

Trip Report- Hendrik Behrtel

Eight of us met at the Petro Port outside Pretoria on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. After an early start we headed for Modi Mole and on to the Mateke 4x4 trail. Mateke's 4x4 trail runs through rocky terrain with steep inclines and a few river crossings that made for a challenging outing. We met Gordon the 9th member at Mateke.

After we've completed our paper formalities, we were briefed by Theresa on the dos and don'ts of the trail, tyres were deflated to 1.8 bar and off we went. The understatement of the day was the warning by Theresa that the trail is hard work! The heat of the day made the hard work even harder work.

We started building "roads" at the first big rock obstacle. With this obstacle you were forced to drive off camber, a new experience to some of us. In addition to the vegetation, it is a technical route, with lots of rock crawling. Provided you choose your path carefully with your vehicle in mind there is minimal risk of vehicle damage. The next big rock obstacle took us a lot longer to get across, and this was also the spot where Schalk damaged his Navara which proved to be a bit too low for this challenging trail.

The rest of the track was fairly easy driving but a bit bumpy. As we were tackling the next steep incline Neville called - he had problems. His car would only run for a short while before cutting out. We managed to get him to the top where we did some fault finding and found that his engine did not get any diesel. Julian and Nigel to the rescue! Thanks again for all their hard work. While they were busy fixing the problem, the rest enjoyed a quick lunch between the trees.

Now we were on our way to the much feared 45 degree decent that awaited us. Here is where things got real interesting (read difficult). The first section of the decent did not pose much of a problem. The second short section was a different matter. All of us jumped in and packed rocks to build a better, more manageable slope. Making our way down the slope left most of the drivers with pounding hearts, and a smile of relieve after crossing the smelly "river". There was enough evidence on that hill that without careful thought and guidance that you could seriously damage your car.

With this trail concentration is mandatory!



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It was getting late and we decided that we will take the escape routes back to the farm house and miss the back end of the trail. There we all said our good byes and headed home. Most of us only arrived after 9 o'clock back home which made for a long day of hard work and sore muscles.

*Morning Alan,*

*I am still pretty exhausted from hauling and placing rocks from the trail yesterday. What a trail, certainly not a 1 day trip type of trail. Got home at 22h00 hrs last night making it a very long day indeed.*

*About the trail; this is definitely a 5 rating in some parts with vehicle damage a great possibility as we experienced. This is not for soft roaders, ground and running board clearance is very important. There is a hang of a lot of road building on most of the rock climbs and descents, but with a fantastic amount of assistance from our great and enthusiastic members (Including ladies) we mad short work of the trail. Ha Ha (approx 7 hours).*

*Some of us had lunch while we stopped for the fuel problem. We had an incident where a Nirvana (Too low) turned up a large rock and damaged the right rear fender and serious running board scraping. We also had a Hyundai's diesel tank that got bumped at the bottom and stopped the fuel flow. We managed, with help from Jvlian to remove the fuel pick-up and cut 5mm off the end and got it going again.*

*Thanks to Hendrik for a great but tiring day, but it is always a good day when one can be out with great like minded people.*

*Regards,  
Nigel Wilshire*

Dear Alan

Schalk and I just want to thank Nigel personally for all his help, encouragement and guidance during the course. He really made the day very special and he worked incredibly hard. We hope his body is recovering...Can you please pass this message on to him.

Schalk an I just want to thank the group for helping the Navara over the obstacles. They worked very hard to get us trthrough the course. The 2 newbies thank you all! Can you please pass this message to all the participants of the day...

Kind regards  
Schalk and Ilse Burger

*Hi Alan,*

*I must say this trail was a fantastic team building experience. I overheard some of the fundis present saying they would rate it in it's present condition as a 5 with vehicle damage to be expected, so for me it was a pure adrenelin rush a lot of the way around. Janet and I would just like to express our absolute amazement and wholehearted appreciation to both the fundis and everyone else who, if they couldn't help with expert advice got stuck in physically to help wherever they could.*

*It was an amazing experience, and because of the Safety First attitude of those in control, nobody got injured and those who did suffer vehicle damage, this was limited to minor body scrapes and dings.*



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*We would specially like to thank Hendrik and Nigel, without whose expert advice and direction we would still be there, wondering how the HELL we were going to get out of this place in a month of Sundays.*

*At the end of the day, a really GR8 time was had by all, thanks mainly to good leadership and NO BITCHING. Fantastic!!*

*Brian & Janet Magner*

### **LUDERITZ TO WALVIS BAY LONG HAUL TRIP**

*Hi Alan*

*Thanks for an amazing trip, Elize is now green with envy and vowed to go along next time ( which I hope will be soon). Thanks for all the assistance that was given to me. The trip memories are still fresh in the mind and spirit.*

*Once again I came to the conclusion that there is more to life than slogging away in the office – but something has to pay for these trips... My brother Johann is now converted into the life style and he is seriously considering upgrading to a 4X4.*

*Thanks again, and please send my regards to Charmaine and the family. Regards  
Stefan Kruger*

*Hi Alan,*

*Thanx for a great trip and experience. With the few challenges we had it showed me once again that I made the right choice to join the club. The camaraderie and support we enjoy is evident.*

*Regards*

*Raleigh Gordon*

*Hi Alan,*

*That certainly was one exceptional trip – ranks up there of all the long hauls I have done with the club. URI (Eben, Mariette, Len (Cruiser) and Gedagtes) were outstanding in their holistic management of the “Adventure” – from the support and coaching on dune driving techniques, to the magical lunches en route that appeared from nowhere, to the fantastic, wholesome suppers. Eggs for breakfast on the last day, just topped it all – schlepped through 600km of dunes! As always, the club camaraderie was superb, and the guest “navigators / co-drivers fitted in just fine.*

*It all went by far too quickly – now for East to West!*

*Jonathan Owen*

2008 Namib Desert Group

THANKS.

For allowing us to invade your space and continue the journey with you. I cannot repay you as one cannot put a monetary value on what you have done for us. But please call on me should you need assistance at any time.



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I probably should have hired a car in Windhoek and continued the journey with you but at that stage my mind was in total confusion and the option did not cross my mind – hope you all had a safe journey.

Recovery team will only enter the desert Wednesday 8 October – same team that recovered the Touareg not so long ago.

Adriaan, Nicci, Riaan & Nicola

*Hi Eben, Hi Alan,*

*We are short of superlatives to express how fantastic and awesome we found this dune experience ! We enjoyed every meter of the 638 km trip, and often said to each other "savour this moment".*

*Thank you, Alan, for including this trip in the club's programme. You will struggle to improve on this. Thank you, Eben, for a flawless operation. The guidance and logistics you provided were superb. We wish you and Marita the success you deserve when you set out to do this full time.*

*Kind regards,  
Geert de Vries*

#### **GET WELL MESSAGES / GIFTS ISSUED**

*Alan,*

*Ek wil BAIE DANKIE se, dit het baie vir Lynette beteken. Sy was nogal baie naby aan haar ouma van kleins af. Dit gaan beter maar jy kan sien dit ontstel haar nog baie, dit sal 'n rukkie vat maar ons sal daar deur kom. Se asb baie dankie aan al die klub lede vir hulle gebede en die blomme.*

*Groete,*

*Peet Koekemoer*

Dear friends and family

After just over a week in hospital Jill has been discharged. I will be going to fetch her now and plan to take the rest of the day off to be with her. She is doing fine so far and let's hope her recovery at home will be 100%

Thanks for all your calls and well wishes.

Jonathan Greengrass

*Alan and Charmaine*

*We as the Pietersen family would just like to say thank you for the wonderful gift that we received from the 4x4 Off-road Adventure Club at the birth of our 3rd son, Brennon. It is always great to again be reminded of the bigger family bond that is found in the club.*

*Best regards*

*Christo and Toni Pietersen*

Dear Alan,

Many thanks for the bouquet of flowers delivered yesterday from the club, helps to perk up the time that Karen has to sit around. Everything went well with the operation, some of the stitches came out on Friday, she is already frustrated, as she would like to drive, but that is only possible after 5 weeks.



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Everything goes well, Karen should be back at work at end of November. Many Thanks again, regards to the family.

Karen & Ernest Chiole

**CHEERS FROM THE OBERHOLZERS**

Hi Alan & Family (That's the club!)

Just a short note. We are flying out on Saturday the 11th (immigrating). My family and I would like to thank you and the club for everything. Will follow the web page and the odd e-mails. Future plans is to join a similar club in Australia, but I think the first few months will be hectic.

New e-mail address: [oberholzer.andre@yahoo.com](mailto:oberholzer.andre@yahoo.com)

Regards

Andre, Denise, Claudia & Bronwyn

**MOZHELP – A MUST HAVE EMERGENCY NUMBER**

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

MOZHELP consists of a number of professional service providers who provide emergency medical services, lawyers, doctors, roadside and security assistance services in Mozambique. For more details about MOZHELP emergency services in Mozambique please visit our website at [www.mozhelp.co.za](http://www.mozhelp.co.za).

We have an extensive network of service providers in Mozambique that will be able to assist you in every possible emergency from medical emergency, legal, vehicle breakdown, and security. Please consider this for your own safety and well-being. Thank you and have a safe trip.

**Contact:**

Reghardt Meyer

MOZHELP, CNR OF INBANI AND MARULA STREET, MALELANE

TEL 013-7900265 / FAX 013 7900427 / CELL 0829400140

**August 2008**

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

**LAND ROVER**

2004 LANDROVER DISCOVERY TDS DIESEL. AUTO. 100000 KMS GOLD. IMMACULATE COND. TEL 0823713156. WILL DELIVER. HIGHEST OFFER ACCEPTED.

**COLT BAKKIE**

1996 COLT RODEO 3000 4X4

- 94000 KM
- Canopy



- Winch (never being used)
- Dual battery system (New batteries)
- Long range fuel tank
- Build in air compressor
- New tires (BF GOODRICH)
- Excalibur's
- High lift jack and mountings
- 12 CD shuttle
- Bull bars
- Alarm / Immobilizer / Gear lock

Leon – 082 778 8379  
Price: 80 000 (ONCO)

**VARIOUS ITEMS FOR SALE (CLARENS)**

Dear Alan

Would it be possible to advertise the following items for sale in your next news letter?

- Techni Top Tent with shower enclosure - R3 500
- Internal roof console for Landcruiser 100 GX - R1 750
- Vertex VX 2200 series VHF Radio with aerial R1 500
- Outback drawer system to fit 100 series Landcruiser - used once - colour grey - R7 500
- Burnco purpose made drawer system to fit Landcruiser 100 series with stainless steel table, integral water tanks, stainless steel table & gas cooker. Cost new R12 000 will accept R6 800.

Dave Dix  
084 517 5769  
e mail: [craigrossie@telkomsa.net](mailto:craigrossie@telkomsa.net)

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## ***Flat Wheel – Light Relief***

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY!!!!**

***Q: What the defintion of optimism?***

***A: An investment banker who irons 5 shirts on a Sunday evening***

***A man went to his bank manager and said "I'd like to start a small business. How do I go about it? Simple, said the bank manager, Buy a big one and wait"***

***Q: What's the difference between an investment manager and a pigeon?***

***A: A pigeon can still make a deposit on a BMW***

***Q: What is the difference between an investment banker and a large pizza?***

***A: The pizza can still feed a family of of four***

***Q: What is the capital of Iceland?***



**A: About \$3:50**

***I tried to get cash form the ATM today but it said insufficient funds, " I don't know if that meant them or me"***

**WHAT A MESS!!!!**

For several years, a man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night, she confided in him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to secretly have the child. If she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18.

She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discrete, he told her to simply mail him a post card, and write 'Spaghetti' on the back. He would then arrange for the child support payments to begin.

One day, about 9 months later, he came home to his confused wife. 'Honey,' she said, 'You received a very strange post card today.' 'Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later,' he said. The wife obeyed and watched as her husband read the card, turned white, and fainted.

On the card was written:

'Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti.

Three with meatballs, two without .

Send extra sauce.

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***Preferred Suppliers - Gauteng***

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

**1) ECHO ACCESSORIES 4x4 CENTRE!**

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

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

Call 012 – 345 3333, Fax 012 345 3343 or email: [echoacc@mweb.co.za](mailto:echoacc@mweb.co.za).

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

**2) 4x4 INSURANCE**

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



Supported by:



OCTOBER 2008

### 3) BOLTONS GPS WAREHOUSE / KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS

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

#### **GAUTENG:**

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

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

#### **PORT ELIZABETH:**

Anthony Bruyns

### 4) FRONT RUNNER

Front Runner will offer any club member, on production of their club card, a 10% discount on the purchase of any Front Runner produced product. Call Wayne Heath-Coombe (club member) now.

1 Forssman Close, Dytchley Road, Barbeque Downs, Kyalami - 011 466 0155 –

www.frontrunner.co.za

### 5) 4x4 MEGAWORLD

10% on ALL products in their larger than ever warehouse. What an offer. From camping gear, 4x4 gear, outdoor gear, the lot!!!! Their warehouse is now bigger and better and definitely worth a visit. Club members, as one of the few places that give is 10% on anything!, it is well worth the visit. Speak to any of their well trained staff! megaworld@oldmanemu.co.za

### 6) SAFARI CENTRE - NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD DEAL

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

Products excluded for discount:

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

### 7) HONEYDEW TOYOTA & RV CENTRE

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

### 09) OUTDOOR WAREHOUSE - CENTURION

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

### 10) 4-BUY-4 DIRECT STORE - Mail Order Outlet

Special price for club members. Also able to provide 29Mhz Radios, VHF Radios, GPS's, Photographic Window Bags, SUUNTO Watches, Clothing, Solar Panels and plenty more at cost cutting prices...Give us a call – [4buy4direct@mweb.co.za](mailto:4buy4direct@mweb.co.za)



**11) PB ENTERPRISES – HIGHEST QUALITY POWER SYSTEMS & INSTALLATIONS**

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

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

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

Mobile: 083 749 0445 / E-mail: [info@pbeproducts.co.za](mailto:info@pbeproducts.co.za)

**12) BIG COUNTRY 4x4 – CUSTOMISED 4x4 FITMENTS AND PRODUCTION (Under new ownership)**

10% discount for members on all manufactured products from our factory. Excludes labour costs. Please visit our website at [www.bigcountry.co.za](http://www.bigcountry.co.za) for more information, or even better come and discuss your requirements over a cup of tea. The factory is situated in Strijdom Park, Randburg, just off the highway. Big Country really can be your 1-stop shop for all your 4x4 equipment!

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

**13) SECUREFIT**

Members get preferential rates at all SecureFIT branches in Gauteng. Please enquire with your specific request to Alan, and pricing will be supplied. This can then be taken, in writing, to your nearest fitments centre for action. See their website for more details on what services they offer.

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**Editor:**

**Alan Goodway (GP 1796)**

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Professional 4x4 Trail & Overland Guide - National

Accredited 4x4 Driver Training Assessor

Northern Region Chairman - 4 Wheel Drive Guides Association SA

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