



Trails & Tribulations...

The festive season is over and most of us have returned to work. A belated Happy New Year to you all!!! No use complaining, as one must look forward to repaying the festivity spend. And then, 2006 went by with such a flash, that 2007 should do exactly the same. So why complain. From me and the club, may you have a great 2007 in the bush and enjoy what the good Lord has provided us with respect to the outdoors. Maybe I see you out there sometime.

So what does 2007 hold in for us? Well in the club's context, some long haul tours visiting places such as Hwange in Zimbabwe, Northern Cape, Kgalagadi, Botswana, Etosha & Waterberg NP's in Namibia, Swaziland and also the Soutpansberg area in Limpopo. Oh yes, then the day trips, the weekends away, training and information weekends. Another busy year ahead indeed.

For you the newsletter readers, come and join us. It is as simple as joining the club. We have plenty of training again this year for you, jam packed newsletters and great evening information sessions again. I bet that gentleman is still smiling like a Chesire Cat after winning the Bridgestone Dueler tyres at the November meeting last year! We had over R30K's worth of prizes in the end. Missed out – well join us this year. First meeting in February. Watch the emails.

In order to attempt to bypass the issues around firewalls and spam newsletters etc., I have decided to circulate this newsletter in .PDF format from now on. Anybody needing the PDF reader, can download it easily from our website on www.4x4offroadclub.co.za at no cost. Newsletters are also archived on the website for future reference. We will however not be going all graphic and include photographs, as the amount of content still makes it a sizeable document. And as many of you have always echoed, well worth the read!!!

We concluded the 2006 year by significantly contributing about R9500 worth of goodies (edible & hygienic) to the Danville Help Project, with significant contributions by Revlon and our members themselves. It was a great initiative from all, and sincerely contributed to the upliftment of poor pensioners in the Danville area, especially as they would have the ability to have 2 good meals over the Christmas period. Over the existence of the club we have been involved in projects such as this, as well as a huge Christmas Donation / Camping and foodstuffs to the TLC Orphanage for Aids kids in the south of Joburg, Books for the Eksteenfontein (Richtersveld) library, clothing to the Riemvasmaak Community in the northern Cape, GPS Donation to the conservation office on the West Coast and others. A short article appears herein for further information.

Property also seems to be a hot topic nowadays. We will be presenting some opportunities at our February meeting, and the response to the Mozambique offer was great. In the newsletter you can read about buying property in the Waterberg on a game farm for ONLY R100000.00. Check it out.

For those planning to travel to Namibia this year, make sure that you contact Charmaine at 4buy4direct@mweb.co.za for a New Year special running for the En-Route Namibian Route Books and Travel Map. The whole collection of 5 booklets and its associated map is now available for a short period of time at the reduced rate of R200 (excluding postage – add R20) for the bundle. It is a must have for any planning you need to do.

Alex Smit will be running a Lion Experience Weekend from 26-28 January and further details are available from 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za. These trips are catered, educational and great fun. We had good feedback from last year. So send that email. No 4x4 needed. Hurry with this.

Our February meeting will cover some great topics including suspensions, buying a house in Mozambique, new hot water shower units, a new roof top tent from France (17kgs!), insurance and more....keep your eyes on your email inbox. The invite is to follow.

And what says you about the new Weg Sleep magazine. Certainly a great product. The boys at Weg have really taken the market by storm and are going places. Well done. Make sure you subscribe and win a Echo Chobe II – My wife wants her own subscription! Eish.

Talking about new products, InfoMap (Andrew St Pierre White) has just released his first software for the GPS taking on the traditional industry who has been responsible for this delivery. His article submitted tells you more about what is available.

This year we have filled our advertising slots with 2 additional operators now also recognising the power and distribution of this e-Zine. If you do support them, make sure you tell them that you got their details in the newsletter. This shows them that their efforts were well worth it.

January we have 7 more club members attending formal guiding training and certification as SA 4x4 Trail and Overland Guides Qualifications. Our club's official guides are swelling and hopefully all of them will play a major role in the success and running of trips within our structures.

Well this is a first trail, so your comments will be welcomed. The newsletter is a bit early, but I am sending out info received last year too, so enjoy. May 2007 be a great year for you all!

Yours in 4x4ing.

Alan Goodway (GP 1796)
Editor (voluntary!)
4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

TOURS FOR 2007/2008 – PRESENTED BY WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM

Reference is made to the abovementioned and your planning for 2007/ 2008. In this regard, please find herewith further details regarding the tours for Africa proudly presented by WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM and the [SERENGETI TEAM - ALEX AND ALTA](#)

2007

1. Lion Weekend: 26-28 Jan 2007: Coliny – 10 vehicles
2. Lesotho Tour: 16-25 Feb 2007: Start in Clarens – 10 vehicles
3. Pilansberg Weekend: 2-4 Mar 2007: Bakgaltla – 10 vehicles
4. Namibia Tour: 16-25 Mar 2007: North Namibia – 6 vehicles
5. Kalahari Tour: 31/3 – 9 Apr 2007: Easter / Botswana – 10 vehicles - Full
6. Lesotho Long Weekend: 27/4 – 1 May 2007: Start in Clarens – 10 vehicles
7. Serengeti Tour: 6 May – 6 June 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles -Full
8. Serengeti Tour: 24 Jun – 25 Jul 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles Full
9. Lesotho Long Weekend: 9 – 12 Aug 2007: Lesotho – 10 vehicles
10. Bird view Tour: 25 Aug – 1 Sep 2007: Okovango Delta – 10 vehicles
11. Kalahari Tour: 22 – 29 Sep 2007: Botswana – 10 vehicles
12. Mozambique Tour: 17 – 26 Nov 2007: Inhambane – 5 vehicles
13. Namibia Tour: 14 – 31 Dec 2007: From North to South– 10 vehicles

2008

14. Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 4 May – 4 June 2008: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles
15. Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 1 July – 31 August 2008: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles (60Days)
16. Serengeti Tour: 2008 : 7 Dec – 7 Jan 2009: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles

Just a quick preview of what you can expect for 2007/2008. You just can't beat our flexible and affordable tours, all with catering included. Please come and visit our walk-in Eco Shop in Silverton on the c/o De Boulevard & President streets from the 1st of March 2007

Kind regards
Alex & Alta
0825706010 or alex@eco4x4africa.com
January 2007

Shows, Training & Other Events

- 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club Opens – 10 January
- 4x4 Trail Guide & Overland Training Course – 24-28 January
- LION Experience Weekend, Coligny – 26-28 January
- BEELD Holiday Show, Gallagher Estate – 9-11 February
- AIM Shooter Show – 23-25 March
- LA Sport Show – May (TBA)
- 4x4 ATV Show – Pretoria (TBA)
- Getaway Show – 24-26 August
- The GPS Challenge Finals – 27-28 October
- Outdoor Show – Kyalami - TBA

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

RENT OFFROAD TRAILERS FOR Rxxx/DAY (too ridiculous to publish)

The 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club has 2 offroad trailers to rent out, at favourable rates to qualifying hirers, during 2007.

The first is a robust 2-bin CUTTS steel off road trailer, with lid roof racks, spare wheel etc. Recently upgraded by Echo 4x4 – the masters in offroad trailers. This trailer has a roof top tent on it.

The second trailer has minor customisations to it, and a full Howling Moon family tent on top (sleeps 4).

Interested? Contact Alan on 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za. The longer the period, the better the price. Why pay excessive holiday rates.

MAPS, BOOKS, CDs & DVDs CATALOGUE AVAILABLE

The 4-buy-4 direct stores' catalogue of products is now available in full colour on the club's website. Select www.4x4offroadclub.co.za, and then select the page by clicking the logo in the top right hand corner. A PDF document with a full order and price list is available for all to use.

SPECIAL – En Route Namibian booklets (5 of) + Free Camp Site/Accommodation Map for only R200.00 (normally R340). Limited stock –everybody welcome!!!! Only till 31

December 2006. Ideal Christmas Gift! Send email to 4buy4direct@mweb.co.za with details and travel pack orders.

EXPERIENCE ROARING LIONS, CLOSE UP AND PERSONAL

Join Alex Smit on a Lion Breeding farm in the North West Province for a fully catered camping weekend, at low low rates, where you will be 'in touch' with breeding lions and their offspring – only a fence away in fact. Play with the cubs, see the tigers, crocs, wild dogs etc. Go for a game drive. Hear the roar of the dominant male, the calls of the females, all in an idyllic camping site – this is open to anybody, with a maximum participation of 15 families camping. There is a pool and electricity, and grass camping sites. Excellent ablutions.

Send an email to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za with LION in the content field. Next **dates are 26-28 January 2007**. No 4x4 needed. Camping only. Catered. Hurry, bookings already received, only 15 camp sites.

STUNNING BUSHVELD CARAVAN PARK DISCOVERED

During the holidays we stumbled across a stunning bushveld caravan park, which is ideal for camping for the whole family. Koro Koro Bush Camp (Koro Koro stands for "Place of the yellow-Billed Hornbill"), is situated 17kms outside of Bel Bela (Warmbaths) and has 30 stunning camp sites, with the following facilities:

Swimming Pool, Game Viewing, Licensed Pub, Big Screen TV, Entertainment Area, Caravan & separate Tent stands, Conference Facilities, Team Buildings, Quad Bike track on a separate area of the farm – no quads driven on farm section where camping takes place and fully stocked shop. Stunning green lawns. Jungle Gym for kids.

Phase 2 of this development includes more secluded (only 30) bush camp sites with private ablutions, and the owner says later on (based on recommendations from SA 4x4 and ourselves), they will build a 4x4 camp site in a desolate side of the farm, away from the main area.

We will definitely visit this spot in this year. Contact Koro Koro on 082 908 4440/8, or visit www.koro-koro.co.za. Email at info@koro-koro.co.za.

NEW INFOMAP DIGITAL GIS, GPS MAP OF BOTSWANA. Release Feb 1, 2007

WHY ARE THERE SO FEW UP-LOADABLE MAP PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET?

WHY DO THE MAKERS OF THESE MAPS HAVE NO COMPETITORS?

WHY ARE THEY SO PRICEY?

Did you know that the owners and importers of Garmin GPS receivers appear to not want outsiders creating maps that are up-loadable into their GPS receivers. I thought they might encourage it, because surely the more data on the market means more GPS receivers are sold? Obviously this is not the case. I can only conclude that their policy is to hold on tight to all products so that not only can they generate income from the sale of GPS receivers, but associated, approved organisations can generate income from up-loadable data as well. For this reason, until now, as far as I know, only one company is making maps that are GPS compatible. This is MapIT/GeoOrigin. They are part owned by Map Studio and work side by side with the Garmin importers, Avnic Trading.

InfoMap is changing things. In 1998 I had the idea of creating better maps of Southern Africa for the overland explorer and sell them at an affordable price. In some measure I think I have succeeded and InfoMap now has 13 paper map titles. I competed with Map Studio's Globe-Trotter series of paper maps and I believe that sales of InfoMap's maps of our neighbouring states far exceeds theirs, if nothing else. But until now the digital domain has remained out of bounds.

InfoMap going digital.

In 2004 I had the idea that digital GPS data was the way to go. I also learnt that this was no easy road. We at InfoMap have struggled and worked tirelessly, spending close on two years to adapt several pieces of third-party software to enable this new product to be released. Our problem is that we cannot duplicate the security measures found on the 'Garmin-approved' data. It is for this reason that there is no copy protection on this our new product, that we are so excited to release end January.

Brand new product – the first in a line.

The new product is Botswana, GIS, GPS Digital map in 1:100 000 scale. It is the only map in existence to include all cattle fences, rail lines, registered minor tracks, air fields, game reserves, pans and rivers, minor settlements and border posts. It also has many, but not all of Botswana's cut-lines and like the InfoMap paper map, many little known and remote tracks outside of the reserves where no park entrance fees are charged. This GPS map is the perfect combination to use with InfoMap's well liked Botswana paper map, as all of the waypoints found on it are also on the GPS database. The two maps, worked hand-in-hand, is unbeatable and is the first combination digital and paper map yet made of Botswana. The new map is compatible with all map-enabled Garmin GPS receivers and uses MapSource software for the installation process, which is as simple as it gets.

This map is available from Feb 1st as a direct downloadable file from www.4xforum.com. Find the map section. Or, from stores that normally sell InfoMaps, like 4x4 Mega-World, Safari Centre, LA Sport, AA Stores, Outdoor Warehouse, Front Runner and others. (Although they may not have stock on the first of the month) Price is R285.00 for the download or R340 for the CD. Added value in the CD includes text and video about travelling in Botswana including Quicktime movies about sand and salt-pan driving techniques, all filmed in Botswana, as well as packing lists, trip calculators and a Botswana travel advisory.

What's next?

Base data is the key to success and we have found a source, that we are keeping close to our chests. If I can make a prediction: Mozambique will be available before end of March. But no promises!

Press release by Andrew S White

082 926 4711

Enquiries should be directed to: Andrew@infomap.co.za

INVESTMENT IN DUIWELSKLOOF (BAVIAANSKLOOF 4x4)

Dear Mr. Goodway

I am the sales manager of a marketing company with three offices (in Knysna, Oudtshoorn and Kimberley), who handles the portfolios of several property investment companies. Therefore, I would like to introduce to you a lodge called Duiwekloof, in the Baviaanskloof, ideal for 4 x 4 enthusiasts.

Duiwekloof is an exquisite site and the current facilities include a beautiful 4-unit self-catering lodge with stone finishes, low impact roof and driftwood support covered reception area and a bush camp site with 5 stands.

An investment allows shareholders free and discounted accommodation. Every 8 shares entitles a syndicate owner to a room at the lodge for free, with additional rooms at 50%, 75% and 100 % of the rack rate respectively. This will be subject to availability and presence of the main member. Each visit may not exceed 7 days, but without restriction on the number of visits.

All shareholders will also benefit from the returns, which are based on expected rentals received.

A proposed shareholding will cost R70 000, for all benefits. There are only a limited amount of shares and think of the benefit of staying at a lodge in as beautiful surroundings as the Baviaans, at no further cost for the rest of your life!

Should you be interested in this investment, please let me know. If you are interested in any of our other products as well, I will gladly send on this info too.

Rene van Zyl
KIH Sales Manager
082 855 6015

LIMITED OFFER - 100 X 2000 SQUARE METER STANDS ON GAME FARM!

The most affordable opportunity to own a stand on a Game Farm - now available to cash buyers at only **R100 000** or on very affordable terms. (R20 000 deposit and R1950 x 60 installments)

Only 100 stands available on a beautiful 1000 ha Game Farm in the Waterberg - less than 2 hours from Gauteng.

- 3 years to build your own bush lodge home/chalet.
- Stands positioned at least 200 meters from another.
- Architectural guidelines to ensure high standards of dwellings.
- Each owner can use their site for camping until they start building.
- Main lodge, bush pub and central pool available to all owners.
- Ideal retirement option

This is a once in a lifetime offer to own your own weekend breakaway spot for you and your family or pool together with a friend or family member and it becomes even more affordable!!

Contact us now on 011 795 1892 or e-mail sales@holidayforlife.co.za for more information. Tell them you read it in the newsletter!!!

Note that this offer is limited to the 1st 100 buyers and is unique as levies will not exceed R200 per month during the 1st 3 years of development.

www.holidayforlife.co.za

ITHALA GAME RESERVE

High in the apex of a Zulu hut is a small shelf on which the occupants place all their very valuable possessions. This shelf is called iThala in isiZulu. It is no wonder that this beautiful reserve in northern KwaZulu-Natal is called Ithala Game Reserve as there are many precious things there. Dropping from the heights of the Ngotshe mountain 1000 meters into the deeply incised Pongola River valley where the oldest rock layer in the world, the Mozaan, lies exposed, the reserve has an astonishing variety of habitats and scenery.

There is evidence of mans occupancy of this areas as far back as the Middle stone Age, some 25000 thousand years ago. Hillsides are littered with banded ironstone which the early Nguni people smelted to make tools and weapons. In the deep caves below Ntshondo Hill, after which the camp is named, the Zulu people hid when the battle for succession was being fought between brothers for the Zulu throne.

Two abandoned gold mines which produced gold until the early nineteenth century are littered with stamp mills and steam engines. These huge machines attest to the resourcefulness and determination of these pioneer miners because the transport from the port of Durban to this extremely rugged terrain by oxt wagon must have been an almost impossible task! Against this backdrop is a stunning array of birds and animals to delight the visitor. Ntshondwe Camp nestles in a well vegetated hanging valley on the slopes of Ngotshe Mountain. With full restaurant, bar and conference centre it has every facility you could wish for and was recently voted 1st in Top 10 Destinations Getaway Places Magazine- 2nd Overall for Best

National Parks & Game Reserves in the Province- Eco-Highly Recommended for Game Reserves and/or Nature Reserves by AA Travel Guide.

Jeffrey Makwala and his friendly and efficient staff will make you welcome and ensure you have a great time. Ithala is a game reserve in every sense of the word but it is outside the malaria zone and its rivers and streams are not infected with bilharzia. There is a great deal of freedom in Ithala which means that you can enjoy some exhilarating walks to vantage points where the views seem to stretch forever. You can alight from your vehicle and there are some great swimming holes.

Annual cycling and canoeing events are staged here and are very popular. The Impala Dam on the Bivane River, a tributary of the Pongola River, is opened and this rush of water provides an exhilarating paddle through the 45 kilometres of the reserve. The Rhino Club sponsors two Gold Cards as prizes for this annual event. All in all, a really worthwhile destination, so grab the opportunity and pay Ithala a visit. You will not be disappointed!

NEW ROOFTOP TENT FROM LA SPORT

If you are the sort of camper who enjoys some creature comforts in your time off then look no further – the Open Sky Rooftop Tent is self-contained, easy and quick to erect, and is now available exclusively at LA Sport 4WD Megastores nationwide. Roof top tents make for sleep-easy camping as all the bedding, such as pillows, sleeping bags etc. remain inside the tent, freeing up more of that vital storage space inside your vehicle.

Come the time to set camp for the night, all you have to do is open the tent – all the gear is already in the tent, and nothing further is required. The next morning it's a simple operation to fold the tent, slip on the cover and drive away. Open Sky Rooftop Tents are not only comfortable but durable too, as they're made of a high quality 'Rip-Stop' Canvas that is waterproof, rot and mould resistant. Additional canvas sections can also be purchased separately.

This zip on annexe is fully closed and includes a built-in ground sheet. The annex, which is stored separately, provides complete protection from the elements as well as complete insect protection. The base of each tent is constructed from an aluminium frame with an aluminium clad insulated base. Stainless steel hinges ensure years of trouble free operation. All ventilation vents in the top of the tent are fully screened against insects. The tent is also equipped with a universal mounting system. This facilitates the easy mounting of the tent to your roof bars or roof rack and also allows for the tent to be opened to the rear, side or in some cases even to the front of the vehicle.

Contact your nearest branch now.

HIJACK HOTSPOTS IN JHB / PTA

The latest **hijack hotspots** in **Johannesburg** and **Pretoria** as supplied by *Blockwatch* and *SAPS*.

Johannesburg:

1. The William Nicol Drive off ramp from the N1 from the Sandton side.
2. The corner of Old Pretoria Road and 1st Avenue in Alexandra.
3. New Road off ramp in Midrand.
4. Riviera Road off ramp near Killarney Mall.
5. Intersection of Christiaan de Wet Road and Wilgerood Road in Roodepoort.
6. All the traffic lights along Louis Botha Avenue between Alexandra and Hillbrow.
7. Parkwood and Saxonwold (Rosebank precinct).
8. Upper Houghton and Killarney (Hillbrow precinct).
9. Between 10th and 11th avenues and 4th and 7th avenues in Parkhurst (Parkview precinct).
10. Glenhazel, Lombardy East and Sandringham (Sandringham precinct).
11. Orange Grove and Highlands North (Norwood precinct).
12. Yeoville, Bellevue and Bellevue East (Yeoville precinct).
13. Wynberg, Bramley, Marlboro and Kew (Bramley precinct).

Pretoria:

1. The Atterbury Road offramp from the N1 in Menlyn.
2. Lynnwood Road offramp on the N1.
3. John Vorster Drive offramp from the N1 in Lyttelton.
4. Jean Avenue offramp from the R28 in Centurion.
5. Rigel Avenue offramp from the N1 in Erasmuskloof.
6. Corner of University Road and Lynnwood Road in Hatfield.
7. The traffic lights along Walker Street in Sunnyside.
8. The Lynnwood Road and Hans Strijdom Drive intersection in Garsfontein.
9. The traffic lights along Nelson Mandela Drive in Sunnyside.
10. The traffic lights along Simon Vermooten Road in Silverton.
11. Along Beyers Naude Drive and Paul Kruger Street in Wonderboompoort.
12. Nelson Mandela Drive, Duncan Street and Walker Street in Sunnyside.
13. The R55 in Erasmia.
14. Burnett Street, Hilda Street and the Atterbury Road offramp in the Brooklyn area.
15. Delfi Avenue and Garsfontein Road in Garsfontein.

VALUABLE BORDER WEBSITE

Keep this website handy for your next cross border trip. You can see updated waiting times, if they are closed or open due to flooding, times, contact nos. etc.

www.rsaborders.co.za/Default.asp

MOSQUITOES AND MALARIA IN KZN

There are over 40 species of Anopheles mosquitoes in South Africa. These are the mosquitoes that transmit the malaria parasite. There are 174 other species of mosquito in South Africa, some of which transmit other diseases such as dengue fever.

In our province of KwaZulu-Natal we have our fair share of these annoying insects with Ndumo supporting no less than 66 species. These range from a minute green mosquito to some very large species that look like 'daddy long legs'. And of course the Anopheles mosquito, which means that visitors need to take precautions against malaria.

The good news is that some of our reserves, traditionally regarded as malaria areas, such as Hluhluwe iMfolozi have been re-classified as low risk areas. Other reserves are classified as intermediate risk areas and these include Kosi Bay, Sodwana Bay, Mkhuze Game Reserve and Lake St Lucia, though not St Lucia Town itself.

To protect yourself, always use mosquito repellent (even during the day) wear light, long sleeved shirts, long pants and shoes and socks at night, and sleep under a net or in a mosquito-proof room. Even if you are taking an oral malaria prophylactic, you can still get malaria if you are bitten by an infected anopheles mosquito, so a good repellent is your easiest and most effective precaution.

ASHTONS TOURS – LEBOMBO TRAIL

We are a tour company operating in South Africa and in August 2007 we are offering a week long 4x4 eco-trail in the world famous Kruger National Park which may be of interest to 4x4 club members. Please would you have a read through the brief attachment about this wilderness trail and what we are offering and if you feel it would in fact possible interest some of your members let me know who I can contact with more details about pricing, the itinerary and booking information.

Thank you for your time,
Warm regards,
Joanne.

Joanne Seabrook

Ashtons Tours

Tel: +27 (0)21 794 0806

Fax: +27 (0)21 794 4583

www.ashtonstours.com

The Lebombo Eco-Trail is a 5-Day (4-night) outdoor adventure, covering the length of the Kruger National Park in 4x4 vehicles. Known as the "Wilderness experience on wheels" this overland trail follows the Eastern boundary of the Kruger National Park along the Lebombo hills from the extreme South to the extreme North. An experienced professional Kruger ranger acts as a trail leader and will interpret the various eco-zones that the trail crosses, at regular intervals. Participants will enjoy "camping wild" at designated unfenced campsites deep within Kruger, away from the main tourist routes. This trail is rated as the best eco-trail in Southern Africa due to the diversity of fauna and flora encountered en route. It is so popular that one has to book a full year in advance.

Only five vehicles, in addition to the guide vehicle, are allowed on the trail at one time so that the environment is not unduly affected and to offer the groups some exclusivity. Each vehicle takes a maximum of four people and clients are required to drive their own vehicles, cater and cook for themselves and carry their own equipment, firewood and water. This can be a lot of work if you are not based near the Kruger National Park or do not have access to your own vehicle which is why Ashtons Tours has created an all inclusive Lebombo package to open up this amazing trail to people who otherwise would not perhaps have the opportunity to enjoy it.

Ashtons has secured five spaces on the Lebombo Trail in August 2007. We will provide our clients with fully equipped vehicles with all the relevant insurance for the five day trail. These 4x4s will be in excellent condition and stocked with all necessary equipment for the 5 day trail. Do not worry if you are not an experienced 4x4 driver, we shall give you a full orientation on your vehicle. The route itself is not a 4x4 challenge however there are some steep inclines and muddy patches where 4x4 is necessary. Two of Ashtons own guides will accompany the tour as support crew. They are there to assist you with setting up camp, familiarising yourself with the equipment and generally providing a supporting role. Ashtons will also provide you with suggested menu plans and be on hand to help with meal preparation and food storage to ensure that you eat very well over the 5 days. Full catering can also be provided, which would include the purchase of food and beverages before the trip.

Included in the package will be one night's pre-trail accommodation at the Crocodile Bridge Rest Camp in Kruger National Park, as well as one night's post-trail accommodation at the Aventura Tshipise rest camp in northern Limpopo.

To find receive more information on this experience of a lifetime contact Ashtons Tours: reservations@ashtonstours.com or tel: +27 21 794 0806.

FUN 4x4 DAY AT DOORNRIEVE 4x4 FARM, ZEERUST

Zeerust - Marico Bosveld. (40km vanaf Botswana) *Twee en 'n half uur van Gauteng.* Vrydag 30 Maart – Sondag 1 April 2007. 'n 4x4 Gesinsnaweek waar u voertuie nie gaan krap of seerkry nie (opsionele, vrywillige bane vir die adrenalien-jagters!!). Ry verskeie roetes as 'n groep, wilbesigtiging is ook beskikbaar.

Bestaande kampeerterrin:

- Boma met groot kuierarea
- Genoeg ablusieblokke,
- Warm storte,
- Swembad,
- 3 bestaande houthuise:

- 1 x groot - slaap 4 @ R 100 p.p.p.n. ekstra
- 2 x kleiner - slaap 2 @ R 100 p.p.p.n. ekstra
- Huis met 4 slaapkamers vir 18 persone @ R 50 p.p.p.n. ekstra
 - Kamer 1 – 1 dubbelbed & 4 enkelbeddens
 - Kamer 2 – 1 dubbelbed & 2 enkelbeddens
 - Kamer 3 – 1 dubbelbed & 2 enkelbeddens
 - Kamer 4 – 1 dubbelbed & 2 enkelbeddens
- Kampterrein: U bring u eie tent en kamptoerusting – 220v kragpunt en water ingesluit by alle kampplekke

Ons verskaf:

- ✚ Koffie en beskuit elke oggend met opstaan,
- ✚ ± 11uur “brunch” by die plek van besigtiging,
- ✚ Aandetes en lekker kuier die twee aande,
- ✚ Verversings en koeldrank Saterdagagaand.

'n Onvergeetlike naweek waar u as gesin kom 4x4 in die Marico Bosveld, u voertuig kom leer ken (sonder seermaak), vriende maak en kom ontspan.

INSKRYWINGSGELD:

R1200 vir 1 of 2 persone, R1500 per gesin van 3 of 4 persone en R200 p.p. addisioneel. Inskrywings sluit 20 Maart 2007. Maksimum van 20 voertuie.

GEEN motorfietse of vierwielmotorfietse, asook harde musiek en lawaai word toegelaat nie!!

R300 deposito met elke inskrywing. Balans met aankoms Vrydagmiddag vanaf 15:00.

NAVRAE EN BESPREKINGS:

Chris Schütte: 018 - 6422833 / 018 - 6423733 (Na ure)

Wessie v.d Westhuizen: 082 922 2268

Dave Harman: 083 989 0248

Riaan Harman: 083 518 2350

Die deposito van R300 kan inbetaal word in die volgende rekening:

OOO - STIGTING

Rek.no.: 910 621 9051

Takkode: 334 - 340

ABSA BANK

Vir verdere verwysing besoek Website www.doorrivier.co.za. Kyk ook artikel in Leisure Wheels Desember uitgawe p120.

SMASH AND GRAB CASES GROWING. WARN EXPERTS

Smash and grab attacks on South African motorists are increasing by up to 25% a month say glass fitting and insurance companies. Their figures show an average of 25 smashed windows a day are replaced in Durban alone. Last year 13 198 cases of theft out of motor vehicles were reported in Northern Gauteng. Statistics aside, what's even more frightening is the fact that these smash and grabbers prey mainly on women. Although the police are taking steps to combat the smash-and-grab attacks, it is up to the motorist to avoid becoming a victim by remaining as vigilant as possible. If you are attacked it is advisable to remain calm and not show any signs of aggression or threaten the culprit. Items such as handbags and cell phone's are replaceable, your life is not! The best smash-and-grab preventer is to have a polycarb film fitted to your windows. This is tinted so that thieves cannot see into your car, makes it extremely difficult to shatter your windows and reduces glare. The film also reduces the chance of injury from broken glass.

PERMITS TO DIVE!!!!

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism will in future require recreational scuba divers to obtain a permit for recreational scuba diving in four of its Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), namely Table Mountain National Park, Bird Island, Pondoland and Aliwal Shoal as exemptions for recreational scuba diving in these MPAs expire on 31 December 2006.

Declaration of the above four Marine Protected Areas as promulgated under Section 43 of the Marine Living Resources Act, Act 18 of 1998, Government Gazette No.'s 26430, 26431, 26432, 26433 published on 4 June 2004 state that: "...no person may SCUBA dive or attempt to SCUBA dive in the Marine Protected Area except on the authority of a SCUBA diving permit" and that "...no person may operate or attempt to operate a SCUBA diving business in the Marine Protected Area except on the authority of a SCUBA diving business permit".

Scuba diver businesses have been exempted from requiring a permit to operate within these MPA's from 01 January 2007 until 31 December 2007 (or until an operator permit system is in place) and all affected scuba diving business operators therefore need to obtain an exemption from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Marine and Coastal Management by applying via email or post to the address below. Operators must keep their exemption with them (or a certified copy) and a list of the names of all clients with them on each dive for possible inspection (on the boat, or, if shore diving, in their car).

Conditions applicable to scuba diving in the MPAs listed above will be available on the departmental website www.deat.gov.za or www.mcm-deat.gov.za, at MCM's offices situated at 7th floor, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Cape Town, and available at certain Post Offices. Following consultation with scuba-diving representatives, the diving conditions within the MPAs have been relaxed to allow night diving in three of the MPAs under certain conditions (excluding Bird Island where scuba diving is restricted to between 08:00 and 16:00 daily). Diver propulsion vehicles and "shark sticks" may be used. For a full list of conditions, see the DEAT website. The conditions will apply from date of purchase to divers purchasing a recreational permit between 11 and 31 December 2006, apart from those relating to night diving which will only come into effect from 1 January 2007.

Recreational scuba divers can obtain the required permit from Post Offices for an annual fee of R75 and a R45 monthly fee. The permits are already available at Post Offices although it will only be required from 1 January 2007 to divers who currently have an individual exemption issued by MCM which is valid to 31 December 2006. The R75 permits will be valid for one year. Divers must keep their permit (or a certified copy of it) with them on each dive for possible inspection (on a boat, or, if shore diving, in their car).

DAKAR RACE – PANDA'S ARE READY!!!

January 3, 2007

Everybody wants the little guy to win so, as well as the multi-cylinder monsters from Mitsubishi and the V8, one-man sand specials, keep your eyes peeled for the two bright-red Fiat Panda 4x4's that will race in the Dakar rally that will start in Portugal on January 6.

The factory-built Pandas might be short on power and torque when compared with the regular Dakar rally-racing machinery but they'll score heavily on being light, nimble and, with their short wheelbase, very handy when cresting the big dunes.

The race will start in Lisbon and finish on January 21 in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, after the traditional run along the beach. It will cover 8696km, 5100 of them as special stages through Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali and Senegal.

Fiat has entered its huggy bears in class T2 for vehicles which most closely represent production

vehicles. They will be driven by Miki Biasion and former Dakar winner Bruno Saby and powered by Fiat's 1.3 litre MultiJet turbodiesel combined with a six-speed manual gearbox.

The engines deliver about 80kW at 4500rpm and a peak torque of 170Nm at 2500rpm and send it all to all four wheels through an automatic transfer system that uses a viscous coupling and a locking differential.

The Pandas have been well-equipped: cargo space has been created for accessories such as aluminium ramps to help get the vehicles out of soft sand, shovels, spare wheels, water reserves for the crew and other specialised equipment.

The Fiat Dakar team will be backed by a [Fiat Sedici](#) service vehicle and three Iveco trucks to carry parts and technicians.

Biasion, who won World Rally championships for Lancia in 1988 and 1989 and two World Truck titles for Iveco trucks 10 years later, will rely on the manoeuvrability and durability of the Panda 4x4.

During its development test sleds were run extensively in off-road situations and in extreme climate conditions: in Lapland where the temperature drops to -40°C, in the West African desert, in the rugged Sierra Nevada in the US and in the Himalayas.

In all, the Panda 4x4 was subjected to more than a million kilometres of testing before series production began, but perhaps the real test of its staying power will only start on next week...

LAND ROVER SOUTH AFRICA - Venetia-Limpopo Wild Dog Project

Mid-summer in the Limpopo Valley

2006 was a challenging year for the Venetia-Limpopo Wild Dog Project. Most of our efforts were focussed on managing the population to prevent inbreeding. Two separate groups of females were brought into Venetia from other metapopulation reserves in an attempt to bring in new blood and bond them to the males. After two months of careful monitoring the males rejected the first group of females and now only one female remains from the second group. This female, Fender, is being held in a boma on the reserve adjacent to nine of the Venetia males and all behaviour and interactions between the groups is being monitored carefully.

The dogs being held in the bomas have displayed the wild dogs' incredible ability to learn. We know that dogs on small reserves will quickly learn to use the fences for hunting, chasing game into them to make catching their prey easier. But what I've seen in the bomas is nothing short of Pavlovian! The dogs have learnt that, about half of the time, my presence at the bomas means they are about to be fed. Not only that but they can now distinguish between vehicles as well! If I approach the bomas in our sponsored Land Rover Defender the dogs immediately begin running alongside the fence squealing and yittering excitedly. Once, when the Landy was in for service, I used a different vehicle to feed the dogs and their reaction was much more subdued and unenthusiastic. The group of nine males are always fed in a 'feeding crush'. This crush forces them to enter into the small feeding area through a trap-doored tunnel. The reason for feeding them in this manner is to ensure that, if we need to dart the males in order to move or collar them, they can easily be confined in a small area and darted in the minimum time and with minimum stress. So far this approach has been hugely successful.

The remaining wild dogs (outside of the bomas) are continuing to hunt, move and entertain the researchers. A few nights ago they provided a viewing experience better than any Hollywood Blockbuster. After hassling a large herd of wildebeest without much luck they came upon a female cheetah and her two cubs that had just killed a steenbok right in front of Dozer (the project's research Land Rover). The dogs promptly stole and devoured the steenbok and proceeded to settle down to what we thought would be an uneventful rest of the night....not so!

Soon after they settled a brown hyaena turned up to finish up the steenbok scraps. The dogs were not particularly bothered by this but became somewhat rattled when two male lions started roaring nearby. The dogs wisely decided to move on. Never ones to pass up an opportunity the dogs were able to hunt and eat another small antelope while on the move! During the rest of the night and next morning the dogs bumped into two more separate groups of lions, got hassled by an overzealous jackal and moved over 15 kilometres!

I have come to realise something very important about being a wild dog researcher: the majority of ones days are filled with frustrating hours of trying to locate dogs with weak collars, punctures, accidental electrocutions from electric fences, days without a decent sighting of ones research subjects...the list goes on, but then one experiences a session like the one mentioned above and it makes all the hardships and difficulties absolutely worthwhile!

Written by: Katherine Potgieter
Researcher at Venetia
January 2007

AD BREAK....ARTICLES CONTINUES THEREAFTER...

NAVIGATORS FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE ADVENTURES

Navigators specialises in exclusive 4x4 safaris and expeditions in Southern Africa, with the emphasis on professionalism, service-excellence, and value-for-money tours. With all-inclusive "Booked-Seat" or tag-along "Self-Drive" options to choose from, we meet the needs of adventurous local and international travellers for small-group or private tours to wilderness and wildlife destinations, in a non-competitive environment where safety and service is key.

To retain the small-group nature of our tours and enhance your enjoyment and bush experience, a maximum of 6 places only are offered on most of our tours – we therefore encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. Please note that it is possible to join any of our tours at alternative points along our route to those as shown. This month we are highlighting a number of set-departure tours from our 2007 schedule.

Visit our website at <http://www.navigators4wd.co.za> for general details on our tours and services. E-mail us at info@navigators4wd.co.za to subscribe to our Newsletter, or to request specific details and pricing on our various safaris and expeditions. Alternatively, contact our office on landline +27 (0) 21 689 1825 or Chris Schlimper on mobile +27 (0) 83 675 3484.

"Kalahari Black-Maned Lions" Wilderness & Wildlife Safari

One of our most popular tours, and an especially unique experience during the summer rainfall months in this arid region, as the ephemeral rivers and pans in the Park are often greener and well populated with wildlife during this time. Highlights include: The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, specifically the Mabuasehube Pans region with its grassland areas and standing water in the normally-dry pan areas; great wildlife viewing; 4x4 Wilderness Trail with fantastic bush camp. "The remote and unspoilt beauty of Mabuasehube is what makes this expedition truly special..."

Dates: Friday 9 February to Sunday 18 February 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 16 December 2006.

Dates: Friday 7 December to Sunday 16 December 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 14 August 2007.

Kaokoveld "Desert Elephants & Himba" Expedition

This is a 'must-do' adventure for anyone interested in an unrivalled wilderness, cultural and driving experience! Highlights include: Khowarib Schlucht; desert elephants of the Kaokoveld;

Epupa Falls; cultural interaction with the Himba people; Van Zyl's Pass; the Marienfluss; Hartmanns Valley; Puros; Warmquelle; Twyfelfontein area; varied and interesting driving challenges; great photographic opportunities. "Don't miss one of these opportunities to join us on a small-group expedition to one of Africa's most rugged wilderness areas..."

Dates: Monday 28 May to Friday 8 June 2007 (Windhoek to Windhoek).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 16 March 2007.

Dates: Friday 22 June to Tuesday 3 July 2007 (Windhoek to Windhoek).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 30 March 2007.

Dates: Saturday 14 July to Sunday 29 July 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 30 March 2007.

"Central Kalahari & Kgalagadi" Safari

This tour showcases the best of the Kalahari wilderness, combining the remote central areas of Botswana with the Mabuasehube region of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Highlights include: Khama Rhino Sanctuary; the northern areas of CKGR, including Deception Valley; Mabuasehube in KTP; varied wildlife; interesting off-road driving challenges; remote bush camps. "A wonderful tour that combines great wildlife viewing with plenty of time to relax in fantastic wilderness areas. Bring your sense of adventure and be prepared for an experience that delivers many magic moments and highlights..."

Dates: Friday 10 August to Saturday 25 August 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 1 June 2007.

"Khaudum & Liuwa Plain Expedition"

This is your opportunity to secure one of the limited places available on what will be a memorable experience! Highlights include: Khaudum Game Park; Caprivi; Ngonye Falls; Liuwa Plain, the focal point of this expedition, where at this time of the year, Liuwa's larger mammals emerge from the surrounding bush and congregate in large herds on the plain; excellent birding (around 320 species) in Liuwa; Vic Falls; Chobe River; Kubu Island. "This varied and relaxed small-group expedition will appeal to adventurous and self-sufficient travellers who love the excitement and unpredictability of travel in Africa..."

Dates: Saturday 20 October to Tuesday 13 November 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).
Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 29 June 2007.

(March 2006)

Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

SAFARI CENTRE FACTS/FEITE OF THE DAY

MOZAMBIQUE

- The flag of Mozambique is the only one in the world to feature a rifle, and has an AK47 on it!
- Portuguese is the official language and English is only spoken in the southern tourist regions!
- Tourists were banned from Mozambique until 1975, the year the country won its independence from Portugal!
- Mozambique harvests fine crops of cashew nuts thanks to Portuguese seamen who brought the seeds of the cashew nut tree from Brazil to be planted by the early settlers along the east coast of Africa!

ZAMBIA

- The Mozambique Channel is famous for its trophy-sized marlin and sailfish!
- Zambia's Copper mining industry is one of the main sources of wealth contributing over 65% of the country's foreign exchange earnings! Iron and Copper have been mined in Zambia for over 2000 years!
- Victoria Falls, in Zambia, is known to locals as "Musi-o-Tunyi" or "The Smoke That Thunders"!
- In a poll taken among foreign diplomats in 1996, Lusaka was voted the capital city with the most pleasant climate worldwide!
- Nshima (ground cornmeal) is considered to be the staple food of Zambia!

COMMUNITY SAVES LEOPARD

The logo of KZN Wildlife depicts a black rhino against a Zulu shield. The shield symbolises the deliberate drawing into conservation of the Zulu people of this province, engaging their commitment to shielding our biodiversity from destruction. The success of this commitment was ably demonstrated recently when Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff in the Vryheid area reported on the successful translocation of a young female leopard into the adjacent Ithala Game Reserve. A leopard had killed a goat in a community area and on discovering this, local residents managed to chase it up a tree and keep it there while alerting Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff in the nearby Ithala Game Reserve

Local wildlife vet Dr Silke Pfitzer was called in to see if she could dart the animal so that it could be relocated to a more suitable area. The leopard had hidden itself in the foliage of a tall tree growing amongst boulders and bush in a rocky ravine and it was necessary to get within 20 metres of the animal in order for the dart gun to be effective. It was with difficulty that Dr Pfitzer, working from a grassy bank on the edge of the ravine, managed to dart the animal in the neck, the only part of its anatomy that was visible.

After a seven minute wait the watchers heard the rustle of leaves and dull thump as the now unconscious leopard fell out of the tree, landing on a cushioning tangle of shrubs and thick grass. A quick inspection showed that the leopard was in fine condition and it was decided to release it in the Mamfene area deep in the Ithala Game Reserve. The unconscious animal was loaded onto a stretcher and carried to a waiting vehicle where it was placed in a steel cage before being driven into the reserve where staff inserted a micro-chip under its skin and notched an ear in order to identify it in the future.

The drive through the Reserve was not without tension as the leopard began to come round and show interest in her surroundings long before the vehicle reached the spot where she was to be released. She proved to be no problem, however, and shortly after dark moved off into the bush. The young female leopard, nicknamed Silke after the vet who darted her, has since been seen in the company of a resident male leopard and appears to have settled down very well in her new surroundings.

NEWS FROM RIVER HILL LODGE – NELSPRUIT

Hi everyone, we hope you get this before you leave on holiday. We have been so busy here, just not had the time to sit down and write you a newsletter (a pretty pathetic excuse but one never-the-less). Ok, with that off my chest we trust you are all fine and those of you going away on holiday we hope you have a wonderful time and to the rest of you who have to keep the country going, may you have at least some rest over the festive season. Leave some work over for those coming back from holiday.

Well things here have moved on a bit the bar and swimming pool area are finished, all the fish ponds are working and all that is left to be done is the conference centre underneath the bar. The ablution block for the bar and swimming pool is also complete which means you don't have to

wee in the **pool** anymore. For those of you still intent on weeing in the pool we now have a new dye which causes the water around you to go bright green, so beware.

For us here the most important development recently was that we have achieved our 4 Star Lodge rating from the Tourism Grading Council of SA and what makes it all the more satisfying is that it is based on the new, more stringent criteria.

We have had a fair amount of rain so the lowveld is beautifully green. Although there have been some terribly hot sticky days.

On to the business end, for those of you going to Mozambique, Kruger Park or just staying in the area please note that the SPAR in Komatipoort has burned down so if you need to do some grocery shopping use the Super Spar or Pick 'n Pay in Malelane on the way up.

We don't know whether this will be a good idea or not but, chemical toilets have been erected along the border road (BP garage area). Good luck.

Well all that remains is to wish you all happy holidays and please drive carefully.

Kind regards
Michele and Richard

BUCKLE UP!!!!

An AA conducted as part of the AA/Bridgestone SA-sponsored Think Before You Drive Month found that two-thirds of child car-seats were fitted incorrectly and more than half of all children were totally unrestrained.

[Think Before You Drive](#) is a global road safety campaign promoted by the AA in conjunction with the FIA Foundation and Bridgestone to help drivers understand the four steps they can take to improve safety on the roads.

The campaign advises parents to make sure child seats and restraints are fitted correctly. Every year about 1500 children aged from new-borns to 11 are killed in car crashes. They could have survived if they'd been properly restraint in a child-seat.

The AA child fact file shows that:

- Children under four are 10 times more likely to be killed in a car accident if unrestrained.
- Almost all injuries can be avoided if child restraints are used correctly.
- An accident at only 10km/h can kill an unrestrained child.
- An unrestrained child will be thrown forward with a force 30 times its body weight in a car crash at 60km/h.
- Unrestrained children are much more likely to smash through the car's windscreen in a similar impact.
- Never place a rear-facing child seat if the seat's crash bag is live.

SOF (SOS?) – SAVE OUR FISH!!!!

Hngry 4 fsh? WWF's [FishMS](#) text line helps you choose the right seafood

You can bank with it, play music, send text messages, browse online and even make calls. Now your cellphone can also help you make choices that limit your impact on our oceans.

A new tool from SASSI (The Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative) helps you make informed choices about the fish you eat. Simply text the name of a fish to the number [079-499-8795](#) and you'll immediately get a message telling you whether to tuck in, think twice or

avoid completely. It's called SASSI **FishMS** and it puts WWF's knowledge of seafood resources at your thumb-tips.

The feature resulted from cooperation between The Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI), local IT company iVeri Payment Technology and developer Tony Seebregts. SASSI has condensed the research on the impact of fishing on fish stocks into guidelines available in a handy pocket card.

In laymen's terms this distils information on the status of local seafood species into one of three colour categories, much like a traffic light. Species marked with a green fish can generally be eaten with a clear conscience because their population numbers are healthy. Orange means they're legal to sell, but if you have a choice you should opt for one of the "green" species. Species marked in red are illegal to buy or sell in South Africa. Full details of how the classification system works are online at www.wwf.org.za/sassi

Now you can still make the right choice, even without the card. The more specific the query, the more detailed the information received.

Jaco Barendse, coordinator of SASSI, says: "Cellphones are the one common possession of everyone from surfers to stockbrokers, taxi drivers to taxidermists - even my dad has one.

"That's why this is the ideal way to combine technology and information with the variety of seafood available and the growing awareness among seafood lovers, chefs, food buyers and so on that the oceans' resources aren't infinite."

He adds that the system not only helps consumers make informed choices, but demonstrates to retailers and restaurateurs that those consumers are willing to use their spending power.

"When shoppers and restaurant patrons start texting to check whether the Catch of the Day is okay to eat, it'll hopefully help drive suppliers' buying habits."

SASSI is funded by The Green Trust (a partnership between WWF-SA and Nedbank),

"We believe SASSI **FishMS** provides consumers and anyone else working with fish with a handy and extremely cool tool to help choose fish from healthy populations and relieve the pressure on overexploited species. By giving them a break their populations can recover and they can once again become more widely available.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN A HIJACKING

Hints to help you protect yourself and your family in the event of a Hijacking. Criminals prey on ignorance! Be aware Be informed.

1. Always be alert near gates, driveways or garages, look out for suspicious persons, vehicles and loiterers when leaving or arriving at your home or business.
2. Be on the look-out for suspicious people when stopping at stop signs or traffic lights, or while driving in city traffic, especially in quiet areas or at night.
3. Drive away quickly if someone suspicious approaches your stationary vehicle.
4. Always keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows closed; keep valuables out of sight.
5. Don't respond to people indicating that there is something wrong with your vehicle whilst you are driving. Drive to the nearest garage or safe place, like a police station.
6. If your vehicle breaks down, if possible, drive on to a safe place. Do not wait for other motorists to come to your assistance. Use your cellular phone to contact emergency services for assistance.
7. Beware of people asking for directions, especially in parking areas.

8. Make sure that you are not followed to and from your home or business, and if you are followed, go to the nearest police station, or place where there are many people; avoid quiet streets or areas.
9. If you are hijacked, try to remember as much detail regarding the hijackers as possible, such as registration numbers, clothing, distinguishing features, etc. Contact the emergency services as soon as possible.

Remember, if you are hijacked, don't resist, your life is more valuable than the most expensive car. These points are based on current trends relating to hijacking in the Johannesburg policing area.

For all police emergencies
phone 10111 - 24 hours - toll free

Source: www.netstar.altech.co.za

EZEMVELO NATURE RESERVE (BRONKHORSTSPRUIT) UPDATE

The reserve has had large amounts of rain and the greenery is dotted with yellow, blue and pink flowers. This has also resulted in a number of births and there are quite a few very small antelope calves on the reserve. A group of three bustards were seen in the short grass earlier this week and blue cranes are quite visible in the open areas. November is, the period of the year when the Long-tailed Widowbird transform from drab brown birds to birds with beautiful coloured plumages, it grows tail feathers to a length of more than 400mm! The rest of the body will also transform into black. It is a process that requires a lot of energy. Along with elongated tail plumes, most widowbird species also produce conspicuous yellow to red colour patches on their wings or body. They can be spotted flying low over the grasses all over the Reserve. Game viewing is exceptional at the moment and there is feeling of new life everywhere, from insects through to the rhino. Ezemvelo is ready for the holiday season and is looking forward to welcoming many new tourists to the reserve this summer.

Friends of Ezemvelo
For more information about the Friends of
Ezemvelo: Tel/Fax 012 667 2183 083 455 1736
PO Box 80 Irene 0062
mwmwmd@mweb.co.za

MITSUBISHI BRINGING SECOND 4X4 TO SA

Mitsubishi's fourth-generation Mitsubishi Shogun, due in South Africa as the Pajero in the second quarter of 2007, will carry over only 26 percent of components from its predecessor - but still looks like the off-roader so many buyers know and love.

It will keep the signature Pajero design cues: short front overhang, upright windscreen, flared wheel arches and spare wheel on the tail door. It will be available here in three-door short-wheelbase and five-door long-wheelbase with a choice of petrol or diesel V6 power.

The 3.8-litre petrol engine will have electronic variable valve timing, as on the Evo sports sedan; Mitsubishi claims an output of 150kW at 5000rpm and 314Nm at 3250. The five-door version comes with a five-speed semi-automatic "Invecs-II" transmission, the three-door a six-speed auto.

Also available at launch will be a revised 3.2-litre, four-cylinder, turbodiesel that uses a high-pressure, common-rail fuel-injection system. Mitsubishi quotes 125kW at 3800rpm and 373Nm of torque at 2000rpm when fitted with a five-speed semi-automatic while claiming 118kW at 3800rpm and 381Nm at 2000rpm for five-speed, manual models.

The maker also says the new, Euro IV-compliant engine is an average of four decibels quieter across the rev range. The Pajero's all-wheel drive uses a central differential lock to split torque

33:67 front to rear and has four modes: normal rear-wheel drive, full time all-wheel drive, 4HLc that locks the centre differential and 4LLC for extreme low-ratio off-road work.

It's built on a monocoque chassis with a ladder frame that, Mitsubishi says, has been significantly stiffened with more welds in key stress areas, more structural adhesives and high-tensile steel. The double-wishbone front and multi-link rear suspension have uprated springs and dampers.

The lighter, short-wheelbase Pajero will come with 290mm front and 300mm rear disc brakes gripped by two-piston callipers, while the long-wheelbase gets larger 332mm discs all round with four-piston callipers at front and two-piston at the rear. All models will have stability and traction control, alarm and keyless entry, automatic air-conditioning, front, side and curtain crash bags, anti-lock brakes with electronic brake pressure distribution and 17" alloy rims.

The Pajero's new interior has a centre console with a multipurpose display for the air-conditioning and audio controls. The long-wheelbase version has a "Hide&Seat" third row of seating, complete with head restraints, that folds up from the boot floor.

MORE TO SEE IN NAMIBIA???

"DIE Sperrgebiet Nasionale Park is feitlik werklikheid met konsepregulasies en ontwikkelingsplan op die tafel met die Ministerie van die Omgewing en Toerisme wat net op die finale woord van die Kabinet wag voordat Namibiërs dié paradys kan ontdek.

"Enkele tegniese punte moet nog aandag geniet en ons verwag dat die Kabinet die park binne die eerste paar weke van die nuwe jaar amptelik oop kan verklaar," het dr. Malan Lindeque, die permanente sekretaris, aan Republiek gesê.

Tydens onderhoud het hy gesê dat nie slegs die 100-jaar geskiedenis van mynweese in Namibië in die park opgesluit is nie, maar die natuurskoon en unieke plantegroei van dié omgewing sal honderde mense lok.

Op 21 April 2005 het die Kabinet aangekondig dat die Sperrgebiet, oftewel Diamantgebied no. 1, oopgestel sal word om as nasionale park geproklameer te word. Die besluit spruit uit grondbenuttingsplan vir die omgewing wat reeds in 1999 oopgestel is. "Terselfdertyd sal Namibië in staat wees om sy visie vir die bevordering van bewaring van die Namibwoestyn te implementeer," het die Kabinet destyds gesê.

Die bewaringsideale bly lewend en aangesien die Sperrgebiet sensitiewe deel van Namibië is, sal permitteer, soos in alle parke, streng toegepas word. "Ons dink ook daaraan om waarskynlik die konsep van begeleide toere sterk te bevorder omdat die mynaktiwiteite in die Sperrgebiet ook sensitiewe saak is."

Benewens ekstra hupstoot vir Namibië se toerisme, hou die opening van die nasionale park ook ekonomiese voordele in. "Die vier aangrensende dorpe, Aus, Lüderitz, Rosh Pinah en Oranjemund – sal groot baat vind uit die opening en wanneer die Sendelingsdrif-grenspos open, word nog groter ekonomiese aktiwiteite verwag," het dr. Lindeque gesê.

Volgens dr. Peet van der Walt, koördineerder van die Ai-Ais/Richtersveld-oorgrenspark, sal dié grenspos in Julie aanstaande jaar open. "Ons wil in Februarie begin bou aan die grensgeriewe aan Namibiese kant en dan begin om alles gereed te kry vir die opening," het dr. Van der Walt aan Republiek gesê.

Die Sperrgebiet is in 1904 deur die eertydse Duitse owerheid geskep nadat diamante by Lüderitz ontdek is. Sederdien is die totale gebied vir die publiek gesluit. In 1994 het die Regering en die diamantmaatskappy, De Beers Centenary, ooreenkoms gesluit ooreenkomstig waarvan 63 persent van die Sperrgebiet aan die Rege-ring oorhandig is. De Beers het voortgegaan om die

totale gebied te beheer vanweë sy logistieke vermoëns, maar permitte om die oopgestelde gebiede te besoek, is deur die Namibiese polisie uitgereik."

MOZ HOUSES ON GOLF ESTATE

The enquiries have been overwhelming. The Estate Agents in SA are going to view the venue for the second time with clients on 8-11 February in Dongane, Mozambique. If you wanna go with, drop me a email at 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za This is an opportunity of a life time. So many South Africans are on this band wagon, why not you.

NEWS FROM PONTA MOLONGANE

So we have come to another year but what a fantastic time we had over the last one! Clearly it was the best ever and with so many happenings, we are really looking forward to 2007. A special thanks to each and every one of you for making the last year such a success, we do appreciate your constant support!

But what is waiting for you in 2007? First of all, this year we are going to run summer specials longer than ever. So, as from the 15th of January till the 15th of March, we will give 10% discount on camping and tented accommodation as well as on any bookings in log huts; we will also give you an additional discount on dives, if you booked them as a part of the special. The cost per person starts from R715.50 and includes camping for 3 nights and 3 dives or R175.50 for 3 nights of camping... Keeping in mind, that February is one of the best months for diving and holiday making, we hope that you will not miss this opportunity and will visit our resort.

For those of you who would like to have a romantic get away in February, we are busy preparing something very special on Valentine's Day and on the weekend thereafter. We are planning to announce the program for the whole year of 2007 in our next letter. Enjoy your holiday / diving experience at Ponta Malongane!

Malonkwazi and Malongane Teams
Tel. +27 13 741 1975
Fax. +27 13 741 3730
reservations@malongane.co.za

TOUR AFRIC – LAND ROVER OWNERS TAKE NOTE!!!!

Author and photographer Duncan Souchon presents a talk and slide presentation on traveling through Africa for 12 months in a vintage Land Rover, including crossing the Okavango Delta, climbing the Ruwenzori mountains in Congo and exploring the wonders of the Great Rift Valley.

As with previous events seats will be on a first come, first served basis. Please RSVP by email bryanston@capestorm.co.za and specify the number of places required. Seats are limited. Note: entry is FREE.

Date and Time: Tuesday 16th January, 6.30pm for 7pm (cash bar and snacks will be available).

Venue: CAPESTORM Bryanston Store, Shop 5, Carvenience Centre, Corner William Nichol and Grosvenor, Bryanston, Johannesburg.

MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS

MASAZANE BREAKAWAYS – UP TO 8 DAYS:

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

CAMP AFRICA – THE BEST BREAKAWAY IN THE SOUTPANSBERG!!! **CAMP AFRICA HUTS AND CAMPSITE (LIMPOPO, RSA)**

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

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

JOIN US FOR A ONCE IN A LIFETIME DREAM EXPEDITION:

CAPE TO LONDON EXPEDITION (AFRICA) – 4½ months – May to mid-Sep 2007

UNFORTUNATELY NO CHILDREN UNDER 15 WILL BE ALLOWED ON THIS EXPEDITION

!!! DEADLINE IS 15 NOVEMBER 2006 !!!

The Cape to London Expedition officially starts at Cape Agulhas (RSA) - the southernmost point of Africa. The expedition will be divided into two legs – firstly Cape to Cairo and then secondly Cairo to London – so that you can choose whether you want to go as far as London... The general route is as follows: RSA, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Spain and London. Enjoy the thrill of experiencing Africa in your own vehicle!! Watch thousands of flamingos; seek out the only true wolf on the African Continent – the Simien Wolf; the historical Lalibela rock churches; experience the harshness of the Sahara Desert and still live to tell the tale; experience the history buzz of Egypt and Tunisia; experience the warm colours of Morocco; and much, much more... Complete self-sufficiency is the rule for this entire expedition due to the lack of ablution facilities, water and fuel. **Please note that this expedition will be an expedition where participation in duties (e.g. cooking) will be required!!!**

MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS PREFERS FAMILY ORIENTATED EXPEDITIONS. HOWEVER VERY “ROUGH” CONDITIONS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS MAKES SOME OF THE EXPEDITIONS DIFFICULT EVEN FOR ADULTS AND WE THEREFORE ARE FORCED TO EXCLUDE CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE.

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

Dave (GP 0838) and Jacqui (GP 0773) van Graan

MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS

CAMP AFRICA

CK 1996 / 015766 / 23

PO Box 3357, Makhado, 0920, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)

www.masazane.co.za

info@masazane.co.za

+27 - (0)82 - 829 - 5421 Jacqui mobile

+27 - (0)82 - 772 - 6682 Dave mobile

+27 - (0)82 - 542 - 8492 Nico mobile

+27 - (0)15 - 516 5717 Telephone number

+27 - (0)15 - 516 4819 Facsimile number

April 2006

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Alan

I must object to the fact that your very useful newsletter is used as a platform for a debate about what Engen has or has not done. This matter has absolutely no bearing on the purpose of your newsletter, and it is inappropriate to publish it.

Well done and good luck otherwise!

Hennie du Plessis

(ED. I placed 3 viewpoints on the matter (the chain email, Engen's response, and a garage owners response) as a balanced view. I am sure many of us could make a decent judgement against these 3 articles, and form our own opinions and it was placed in this context, as FUEL does have a bearing on our industry. Thanks for the feedback anyway.)

AFRICA BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL ADVENTURES

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

LOCAL TOURS:

LAND OF THE LEGENDS (SOUTPANSBERG)

DURATION—2½ DAYS (WEEKEND)

SELF DRIVE—4 X 4

CAMPING OR FORESTRY HUTS

DATE: 30TH MARCH-1ST APRIL 2007

COST: R850.00 PER PERSON

ROOF OF AFRICA (LESOTHO)

DURATION—3½ DAYS

SELF DRIVE—4 X 4

ACCOMMODATION—LODGES

DATE: 26TH APRIL-29TH APRIL 2007 & 3-6 MAY 2007

COST: R2,500.00 PER PERSON

CROSS BORDER TOURS:

ANGOLA—CUNENE TO CONGO RIVER—ADVENTURE —JOINT VENTURE WITH GETAWAY MAGAZINE

DURATION—22 DAYS IN ANGOLA

SELF DRIVE—4 X 4

CAMPING AND LODGES

DATES:

10TH JULY-31ST JULY 2007

25TH AUGUST-13TH SEPTEMBER 2007

INTRODUCTION IN JANUARY 2007 ISSUE OF GETAWAY

TOUR ITINERARY IN MARCH 2007 ISSUE

COST: R8,500.00 PER VEHICLE

BOTSWANA GOLD/VICTORIA FALLS

DURATION—10 DAYS

SELF DRIVE

CAMPING

DATE: 26TH MAY-4TH JUNE 2007

COST: R3,900.00 PER PERSON

BUSHCRAFT TRAINING:**4 X 4 SURVIVAL COURSE FOR FAMILY—GAME FARM MAGALIESBURG**DATE: 3RD – 4TH MARCH 2007

CAMPING AND SELF CATERING

COSTING AND DETAILS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE: www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

BUSHCRAFT TEAMBUILD—4 X 4 ADVENTURE

SURVIVAL TRAINING—PRACTICAL SURVIVAL ADVENTURE

CROSS BORDER IN BIG 5 TERRITORY—100,000 HECTARE—BOTSWANA

DURATION—10 DAYS

MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE: www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

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.netWEBSITE: www.africa-bushcraft.co.za

January 2007

Fresh from the Bush – New Products

How To DVD - Dune Driving DVD.

The "Workshop" is now available and is the third in my series of workshop DVDs. The workshop is a 4x4 Offroad Adventure club event and gets presented by the leading sand driving expert that has revolutionised dune driving to what it has become today in Cape Town, Johann Viljoen (aka Johann Tyres) of 1st Alignment Centre. Greg van der Reis and Russell de Wet are the other guides that completes the trio of instructors. More experience in three people you will not get under one roof...

The DVD is a 40 minute presentation of practical dune driving techniques and was shot on location in the heart of Atlantis Dunes.

Some of the topics covered are:

- Tyre Deflation

- Stopping in sand
- Approaching a dune
- Cresting a dune
- The slingshot
- Sand crawling
- Tyre repairs
- Airjacks
- Recovery gear
- Safety
- Using a spotter

...and it all gets rounded off by some practical. For the more adventurous drivers there is a short section on advanced driving techniques.

To own your own copy email me at morne.stevens@gmail.com

The cost to own your own copy is R120. Postage is R15 (snail mail with tracking number) or R50 for an overnight bag.

You can now also make use of opportunity to own the whole series of workshop DVDs for only R330 (Save R60). These are the

- Dune Driving Workshop
- Tyre Repair Workshop
- Toyota Land Cruiser Bush Mechanic Workshop

Other DVD's for sale

Workshops

Land Cruiser Bush Mechanic Workshop = R150

Tyre Repair Workshop = R120

Movies

The Cruiser and the Hex = R70

Mapping Buffelspoort = R70

Orders can be placed with myself.

Cell 082 410 2656

mstevens@metropolitan.co.za

EXPLORE AFRICA ADVENTURES

Come and explore BOTSWANA with us in the comfort of your own 4X4 vehicle. We are Botswana specialists and probably one of the very few South African based Safari Operators in possession of a Botswana Tour Enterprise License. (since 1997)

The itinerary will take you to:

- Moremi Game Reserve – *The Jewel of Africa* - in the heart of the Okavango Delta. Moremi is a prime wildlife area where elephant, hippo, lion, buffalo, giraffe and most other game can be seen in abundance.
- The Savuti area is one of the most photographed areas in the whole of Africa and most of the Africa Wildlife Videos (Derek and Beverly Joubert's "Eternal Enemies" and others where filmed here.

- The Chobe is proud and very famous for it's abundance of elephants – the highest concentration to be found anywhere in Africa. Chobe is also famous for it's rich bird life and, not least for it's boat cruises and exquisite sunsets – an Africa experience not to be missed.
- The Victoria Falls - approximately 1690m wide and very in height from 62m (Devil's Cataract) to 109m (Eastern Cataract). In comparison the Niagra Falls are 968m wide and 54m high. Various activities e.g. Bungi jumping, White River Rafting, Jet boating, Flight of the Angels etc. are available at the Falls.

DATES 14-25 March 2007**01-12 April 2007**For more information visit our award-winning website: www.explore-africa.co.za**SAFARI PROGRAM FOR 2007****Chobe, Vic Falls and Tiger Fishing at Kabula Tiger Lodge (Zambezi).**

22-30 September 2007.

Liuwa Plains Wildebeest Migration-Western Zambia.

4-17 November 2007.

Liuwa Plains, Kafue National Park and Victoria Falls (Zambia).

21 October 2007-4 November 2007.

Luanga Valley (Zambia), Malawi and Mozambique.

29 September 2007-14 October 2007.

Central Kalahari Safari.

2 -10 June 2007.

Okavango Delta, Moremi, Chobe and Vic Falls.

14-25 March 2007.

1-12 April 2007.

Tanzania: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Zanzibar Island.

18 August 2007- 20 September 2007.

Gorillas in Uganda

Dates on request.

www.explore-africa.co.zae-mail: info@explore-africa.co.za

Tel/Fax: 012-6635319

Cell: 082 805 6765 (Office)

(January 2006)

Feedback from Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs

UFWDA is happy to announce this months e-News available by clicking here: [United e-News](#)
No news from our local AAWDC organisation as yet.

Training Courses for 2007

Please email a BLANK email with the course title in the subject line, to be notified of industry leading courses to be presented in the Pretoria Area this year, at competitive pricing. The club is running these as a service to this newsletter reader. EVERYONE WELCOME.

2007 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Watch this space – courses are being finalized at the moment, but send an email with your interest. Includes GPS, GPS Software, Fire Fighting, First Aid L1, Bush Medicine, Bush

Mechanics, Digital Photography amongst others. Some exciting developments this year around training.

River Hill Lodge – Komatipoort

We are situated 500m off the N4 Toll Road on the Komati River just 2.5kms from the Lebombo order Post with Mozambique and ideally placed for overnight accommodation on your way to or from Mozambique.

Accommodation consists of:

5 private air-conditioned chalets.

2 three bedroom air-conditioned self-catering chalets

Breakfast and dinner are offered in the open dining room or Lapa. Swimming pool and Bar overlook Komati River, Kambaku Golf Course and Kruger Park

Other offerings in the immediate area are: Crocodile Bridge Gate to the Kruger Park (12kms), Golf (2 minutes), Tiger fishing, bird-watching horse riding, Swaziland 65kms and Maputo 100kms.

For more detail please visit our web site on www.wheretostay.co.za/riverhilllodge or contact Michele or Richard at the Lodge directly on telephone no.: (013) 793-7855 or Cell: 083-272-2224. Email: riverhill.lodge@worldonline.co.za

April 2006

The Dusty Way – Club Trips, Reports & Feedbacks

DANVILLE HELP PROJECT – Jonathan Greengrass

Well firstly I must thank all of the club members who contributed to the project and believe me, a project worth while.

I personally supervised the deliveries and attended the hand over of +-R5400 of goodies raised through your generosity, as well as the +-R4000 Revlon products generously donated by Revlon. A grand total of +-R9400 and all this came from the support given by you the club members.

To you your donation may have been just a small token but to the old and less fortunate people in Danville, it was a huge token and of great benefit to help with their ongoing survival in such very hard times.

The focus on the money raised from you was to buy much needed food stuff whilst products such as shampoos, conditioners, deodorants etc. generously donated by Revlon, were also handed out in Xmas parcels. It struck me how these are items we just take for granted but to them, a luxury that they can't afford.

On principal we felt that just handing over your cash was not on as one doesn't always see what happens to it or who benefits from it. We wanted it to be a hands-on project and asked the organizer Ms Elsabe Blignaut what they would need and we would then arranged for the best price possible to stretch your cash as far as it would possibly go. Here is what we bought with your money.

165 units of Housebrand Oil (750ml), Jelly, White Sugar 1kg, Peach Slices 480g, Tastic Rice 1Kg, UHT F/C Milk 1lt.

Now let's put that into mass to give you an idea as to how much that all was. 5 big trolley loads piled high totaling 709.5 kg, plus the 5 x 20 kg boxes of Revlon products made another +-100kg. That totals 809.5 kg, almost a TON!

.... and guess what? Much to the amazement of my wife Jill and the boys at Checkers, I managed to get all 5 trolley loads into the back of my SWB Pajero with a small overflow onto the front seat.

Thanks to club members Johan Marx and Checkers Hyper for their assistance and for giving us a bit of a discount and also thanks to Kevin Gibson for his arrangement with Revlon.

Thanks to Elsabe Blignaut the organizer, a woman with the biggest heart I have ever come across who spends her life supporting these old people and various other needy causes.

Elsabe I salute you!

You can also visit their web site www.danvillehulp.co.za for more news. Finally, from one old toothless gentleman who grinned from ear to ear whilst holding his packet of goodies "Next year brings us a 4x4".

From Alan: WELL DONE JONATHAN AND JILL FOR THE GREAT EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB!!! THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED!

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club in Gauteng, not only constantly follows the 'tread lightly' aspect of offroading and adhering to the code of conduct of the Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs in Southern Africa to which we belong, as well as the base principles of the owner, Alan Goodway, but the club also annually takes up the challenge in contributing to worthy causes, where it is deemed appropriate. These mostly involve community type projects, especially where the 4x4 community has the privilege of partaking in other people's environment. Since inception of the club in 2002, except for driving in excess of 113 trails, areas and countries in Southern Africa, the club has taken the initiative to get involved in:

RICHTERSVELD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In 2002, the Gauteng based operation visited this area for the first time. As Alan Goodway, the club owner, had a good experience of the status of the Richtersveld Community, based on experience built up during trips to this area with the Cape Town club, it was requested that members donate books for the town library, which was almost non-existent at the last visit.

On visiting the community, it was established that a new library had just been constructed, and that the vast amount of books donated, were in desperate need. This was a great project for the club as an initial stab into the area of contributing to others in need. A few bags of sweets were also handed to the community leaders for distribution amongst the kids of the very poor Eksteenfontein community.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST AIDS ORPHANAGE SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This project was selected based on the dire need of private institutions who were trying to assist in the plight of Aids in the country. This orphanage came to our attention, as a non-State aided organisation, who was really trying to make a difference for the local communities in the south end of Johannesburg. Babies are physically just dropped outside of the gate of the small holding, with parents never to be seen again.

The club in 2003, within 2 weeks, raised in excess of R15 000's worth of goods, foodstuffs and essentials for a school which the owners had built for the kids that were on a road to recovery and were reaching pre-school age. Tables, chairs, books, crayons, plastic bikes, trikes and many more were purchased, as well as milk powders etc. for the infants.

Furthermore, a Christmas present was bought for all kids over the age of 5, and the older, more able kids, were taken camping at the Krugersdorp Nature Reserve for a night, and were totally spoilt. The final day of their adventure saw a lunch sponsored by one of the members at the Krugersdorp McDonalds. Thereafter, another member got a helicopter flip sponsored for all the kids by one of the local mining supply companies. There was many a tear spilt by grown ups over these 2 days!

RIEMVASMAAK COMMUNITY CLOTHING PROJECT

In 2004, again with Alan's experience in the Northern Cape area, members were encouraged to collect 2nd hand clothing, books and sweets for the community of Riemvasmaak. This was handed over to a local community guide and representative on the Easter weekend in 2004, when the club visited the Green Kalahari area. They were totally impressed and sent us a nice letter of thanks. Again, this was a first for many of the members, and the aspect of community and cultural involvement was positively accepted by all.

GUNDANI COMMUNITY CAMPSITE FUNDS DONATION

In 2005, on our recent Limpopo Capricorn Long Haul Trip, the club stayed at many community-based camp sites. One of the guides we contracted in to lead part of the excursion from Soutpansberg-Limpopo Birding alluded to the plight of the local community with regard to wanting to progress their camp site for the benefit of 4x4ers. It also turned out, that the funding allocated to this part of the trip, was in excess of the required amount, and instead of returning the money to the group members, they unanimously decided to donate it to the community, via the Birding organisation, to assist in upgrading the camp site. This went down extremely well with all concerned, and the club has been invited back again. The value of this donation was R1400, and will be used towards the building of braai stands, picnic tables, afdak on ablutions and such like.

GAUTENG – WALK FOR WILDLIFE

In 2006, as one of the projects we will tackle, we will attend the monthly walks, where the 'entry fee' of R20 goes to the W4W Charity, to assist in Wildlife preservation in South Africa.

These fun events also allow us to bring together the fellowship and camaraderie of the club families, as we socially partake in these events monthly. A brief 1 hour of your time on a Saturday morning is all it takes, and the bonus is that you get to do some valuable cardio exercise, thereby contributing to your own good health and welfare!

DANVILL HELP PROJECT

As can be seen in the preceding article, again the club and its members opened their hearts to the needy with monetary donations, which was turned into food donations, with the assistance of some discount from Shoprite Checkers.

Revlon also came to the party with a great donation, which made our overall donation a very worthy one indeed.

The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy

SWAP YOUR 4x4 CARAVAN FOR A YACHT!!!!

The details of the yacht (picture available):

Make: Holiday 23 including mooring at TYC Hartbeespoortdam.

9hp motor.

All sails included.

Roller furling.

Fridge.

Radio.

Porta Potti.

Cover.
Ideally I would like to swap it for an off-road caravan.

Thank you
George Prinsloo
Cell: 083 260 3052

WHITE 2005 TOYOTA KZTE DOUBLE CAB 4X4 (LEGEND)

34 960 km's

Extras include the following

1. Long range tank (60 liters)
2. Old Man EMU suspension and TJM shocks.
3. Front bumper
4. Snorkel
5. Off road front bumper
6. Winch
7. Canopy
8. Drawer system in canopy
9. Dual battery system, (battery not included)
10. Tow Bar
11. Intercooler

Contact Gary on 083 3820132 for price or finance option.

MOBILE HIDEAWAY

Alan

I found this and have cleaned it up. If you know anyone who's interested let them contact me. Cost in 2000 was R230 000 . Willing to negotiate around R150 000. Location presently is Magaliesburg.

Jurgens CI Load Box (like a Plettenberg Home concept)

Never used. Dimensions 8m by 2.5m, weighs approximately 5 ton. Sleeps 8-10 people.

Fitted equipment:

Electrical – 12v system with 2 deep cycle 105Amp Delco's with auto battery charger, 220V plugs and lights and complete fuse protection. Push button start domestic Electrolux Honda gas powered 3500W sound insulation, TV aerial.

Gas – Huge 95l ADCENG LPG gas tank, valves and regulator and gas supply to all units. 2 x gas or 220v geyser, 16 litres

Water – 2 Shurflo 2095 diaphragm pumps, 1 x 1000l stainless steel supply tank, 1 x 250l stainless steel waste tank

Other – 1 RVP Airxcel air conditioner, 2 fully equipped bathrooms with shower, basin and Telford chemical system. One 190l 3 way fridge – Zero, One gas oven, one gas hob, both never used, one Defy extractor fan, many cupboards, all mattresses, upholstery and curtains, full mosquito netting on all windows, Instruction manuals.

Transport to site available.

Frans de Lange
Leader Tread
+27 11 473 8200
+27 11 474 3445 fax
083 460 8536 cell

FRONT RUNNER ROOF RACK

I wish to sell my S2000 Fronrunner roof rack. R1250 o.n.c.o. Fitted with spade and hi lift jack carriers. Jonathan Owen. Send email to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

FOR SALE - 1966 UNIMOG 404 FULLY EQUIPPED EXPEDITION VEHICLE

Unimog 404 radio box, in excellent condition, and fully equipped to take you on a long overland trip. Currently located in South Africa. Price: ZAR 200,000 (approx. 26,500 USD).

This car is a dream come true, whether you're a 4x4 fanatic or planning an (Africa) overland trip. The true off road design of this vehicle (extreme high ground clearance, portal axles, low centre of gravity, diff-locks on both axles), makes sure that you'll have to work really, really hard to get it stuck (we never managed to get it stuck anywhere). Originally designed for the German army, everything in the car is over-engineered, and pretty much unbreakable. For an overland trip, the size is perfect: about twice the space of a Landy or Land Cruiser, without all the drawbacks (weight, height, width and cost) of driving a full size truck. It's registered as a 3500 kg vehicle, which means you can drive it on any licence and taxes, tolls etc. are the same as for any other 4x4.

We did an enormous amount of work on the car - both to get it into tip-top shape, and to prepare it for our trip through Africa. Its fully equipped for an overland trip (through Africa, or anywhere else you want it to bring you). Over the past year, we have driven our Mog from the UK down to South Africa. Throughout these 25,000km, we never got stuck, didn't get a single puncture, and the biggest piece of repair work we had to do on it was replacing a V-belt. We really don't want to part with it, but for a car like this it would be a shame to let it waste away in the streets of London.

Have a look at <http://www.tiretracks.org/mogforsale/> or email info@tiretracks.org

Flat Wheel – Light Relief

HOLIDAY MESSAGE

Holiday Greetings to Everyone,

I wanted to send some sort of holiday greeting to my friends & family, but it is so difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending someone. So I met with my attorney yesterday, and on his advice I wish to say the following:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of the summer solstice holiday, practiced with the most enjoyable traditions of religious persuasion or secular practices of your choice with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all.

I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2007, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make our country great (not to imply that South Africa is necessarily greater than any other country) and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting the following terms:

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday

greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

Regards
Joe Bloggs

NICA TOERE

NICA TOERE spesialiseer in gefokusde toere vir klein groepe mense. Hier is van ons toere – skakel gerus:

Pilansberg Nationale Park

(2 nagte, 3 dae) 4 ster verblyf

- Groot 5
- Ideaal vir Senior Burgers
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R2550 per persoon

Ski "Midweek" Lesotho

(3 nagte, 4 dae) 3222m bo seevlak – sneeu gewaarborg!

Vanaf 1 Junie – 27 Augustus 2006

- Ideaal vir Senior Burgers
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R3600 per persoon

WEGBREEK NAWEEK – Clarence & Lesotho

- Besoek Katse Dam
- Doen inkopies in Clarence
- Besoek Basotho Village
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys vanaf R2150 per persoon

"MIDWEEK" na LAEVELD

(4 nagte, 5 dae) 4 ster verblyf

- Besoek ook Wildtuin
- Ideaal vir Senior Burgers
- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R2950 per persoon

Ski Naweeke in Lesotho

(3 nagte, 4 dae) 3222m bo seevlak – sneeu gewaarborg!

Vanaf 1 Junie – 27 Augustus 2006

- Luukse vervoer (slegs 8)
- Alles insluitende prys van R2900 per persoon

GOLF TOER - SUIDKUS

(4 nagte, 5 dae) Luukse Akkomodasie. Speel op:

- Wild Coast
- San Lameer
- Selborne
- Alles insluitende prys van R4250 per persoon
- 8 persone per groep

Kontak Nico – 083 725 9372 / Gert 083 232 1436

March 2006

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 – NEW STORE!

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. Web: 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 leisuresure@webspeed.co.za or on 083 306 5657 / Fax (012) 542 3564.

Speak to Phillip (club member)

3) KEVIN BOLTON CONSULTANTS

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

KJ BOLTON CONSULTANT cc

Contact Kevin @ 082 564 3639 or Marietjie 012-6549813

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

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 Colin, John (the band player!) or any of their well trained staff!

Unit 5, Herman Road, Meadowdale (off Barbara Road)

011 454 2875

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 for map. Address is Olievenhout Street, off Northumberland, which runs parallel with the N1 & the R28.

8) KEMPTON CARAVANS - KEMPTON PARK - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

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

9) M-CENTRE - Quality Mechanics - Centurion Area

These are the guys I have been using for 3 years after I walked out of the local Toyota Work shop in Centurion one day. Quality service, excellent workmanship and unbeatable pricing. Any make, but great on Toyota's. Also the Merc or the BMW - these are their specialities. Call Les or Danie on 012 653 7855 now for a booking or discussion on your vehicle.

10) 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 highway (N1), off the Old Johannesburg Road in Centurion. No discount offered, just good service!

Contact their sales people on (012) 661 0505. Visit unit 4, Highway Business Park, Park Road South, Rooihuiskraal.

11) GOING PLACES 4x4, CENTURION - CLUB MEMBER BENEFITS

14 Botha Avenue, Lyttleton. For your entire 4 x4 and camping needs. All members get 5% on presentation of club card. Contact Ron or Christo on (012) 664 7609

12) 4x4 Offroad Adventure Mail Order Outlet

Rent a 29Mhz Radio for your next trip. Special price for club members. Also able to provide 29Mhz Radios, GPS's, SUUNTO Watches, Clothing, Solar Panels and plenty more at cost cutting prices...Give us a call - 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

13) LA SPORT 4WD MEGASTORES AND TJM PRODUCTS – FOR SERIOUS 4WD EQUIPMENT

When you're serious about four wheel driving, we can supply you with serious 4WD Equipment. We are the distributors for TJM Products from Australia. Our main products are TJM Aluminium and Steel bull bars (Airbag compatible), Airtec Snorkels and XGS Suspensions (3-year or 50 000 km warranty). We also supply and fit a wide range of other 4x4 accessories and camping equipment.

All LA Sport 4WD Megastores branches will offer a 5% discount on presentation of club card, except items on specials or with net prices.

Please phone us at:

Head Office, Pretoria: 012-3294515, Menlyn: 012-3480826, Eastrand: 011-8285381,
Johannesburg North 011-4678210, Bloemfontein: 051-4478360,
Cape Town 021-5552790 and Nelspruit 013-7553391

14) ONLY FOR MEMBERS - HAVANAH CAFÉ (MENLYN)

Invitation to all club members: ***When they arrive at Havana Café in Menlyn Shopping Centre and they produce proof of their club membership, they will receive a 10% discount on their total bill.***

For those of the members who visit the Barnyard for one of their excellent shows, members can also contact us to find out more about our platters that we provide for Barnyard functions - at very competitive prices. Once again, a discount could be considered for tables of 8 or more.

André and Thea Sonnekus

Editor:**Alan Goodway (GP 1796)**

Registered DEAT Tourist Guide - National
Owner - 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng)
Committee Member - Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs SA
Member Club - Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs SA

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

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