



Trails & Tribulations...

The shortest month does not speed the year up. It simply applies undue pressure to do more with less. Ja, those 3 days that you were going to do this or that, is suddenly gone. And did we have a busy schedule.

An interesting month indeed. Started well, but did not end so well for some. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to those many unfortunate people in Mozambique's Inhambane province who were hit by the devastating storms this last week. Many you readers have spent time on the beautiful beaches and in the resorts which have been dealt a serious blow. Let support them where we can, even if only in mind!

Have been getting great comments re the new format. Thanks guys. Have a few interesting stories again this month, and there are still people desperate to get your Rands over Easter. So have a look see. We had another great meeting in February, and the April meeting will be of a slightly more technical nature – and yes, maybe a bit shorter. So make sure you watch the emails.

Our training started with a bang, with an excellent turnout for the first GPS course of the year. Our Level 1 First Aid filled up very quickly, so we will host another one later this year. Our Fire Fighting for the family course is now finalised and the dates will be communicated (sneak preview on date on club website on our program), and we will be running the great Bush medicine course over a weekend in May again. All firmed up and ready to go. Remember we have Bush mechanics, packing trailers, snake, digital photography, home videos (!) and much more coming this year!!!! Make sure you tell your friends. You must be on the circulation list to get these fabulous opportunities.

The Beeld Show went down well, although as an attendee, I feel that the organisers should mix it up a bit. Put some of the larger displays with the smaller stands, so as to ensure an even flow across the total display, as I found the one hall almost dead at one stage, while the other was cooking. Nice to see some of you at Alex's stand, where I spent my Saturday. Other club members on display included Echo 4x4 and Kevin Bolton GPS.

Talking about GPS's – remember to go to www.thegpschallenge.co.za and enter this years challenge. It is great fun, and a true family excursion. Bridgestone have also launched an inter club competition across 10 events this year, and we will keep you posted.

Shows – this is the start of show time. Make sure you diarise LA Sport, the 4x4 ATV and other shows as listed in the relevant section below. These are all well worth the visit. Also see the section on the Swaziland FWDC's reg raid – an absolute must do!

Finally, check the readers feedback session on some event commentary from readers, as well as a lady's opinion on the 4x4 Overland Guide Course presented by Masazane. Hopefully it inspires

more of you ladies to get out there and take up the challenge – because you are worth it and just as capable!

Well, I hope that you have a good outdoor month of March. We leave for Kruger national Park at month end, but in the mean time do a training course, a weekend in Pilansberg, a day trip and start the Bridgestone 4x4 Challenge. We will also adopt an animal for the Kidz of the Club on the 21st this month at the Lory Park Zoo – so yes, another busy one for us! Enjoy!

Now sit back, and take your time in reading this bumper 47 page edition. Lots of feedback in club section too.

Yours in 4x4ing.

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

Shows, Training & Other Events

- 4x4 OAC Level 1 First Aid Certificate Training – 10-11 March
- Bridgestone Club Challenge – Event #1 – African Outdoor Group – 18 March
- AIM Shooter Show – 23-25 March
- School Holiday starts – 23 March
- Rand Easter Show starts – 24 March
- Swaziland FWDC Annual REG Raid Competition – 27-29 April
- LA Sport Show – 05-06 May Pretoria
- 4x4 ATV Show – 09-10 June Pretoria
- Getaway Show – 24-26 August
- The GPS Challenge Finals – 27-28 October
- Outdoor Show – Kyalami – TBA

WALK FOR WILDLIFE – The Fountains Resort, Pretoria (SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE)

2007	Pta	Jhb	2007	Pta	Jhb
	Sat	Sun		Sat	Sun
MAR	3	4	AUG	4	5
APR	31 Mar	1 Apr	SEP	1	2
MAY	5	6	OCT	6	7
JUN	2	3	NOV	3	4
JUL	7	8	DEC	1	2

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

3. Namibia Tour: 16-25 Mar 2007: North Namibia – 6 vehicles
4. Kalahari Tour: 31/3 – 9 Apr 2007: Easter / Botswana – 10 vehicles - Full
5. Lesotho Long Weekend: 27/4 – 1 May 2007: Start in Clarens – 10 vehicles
6. Serengeti Tour: 6 May – 6 June 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles -Full
7. Serengeti Tour: 24 Jun – 25 Jul 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles Full
8. Lesotho Long Weekend: 9 – 12 Aug 2007: Lesotho – 10 vehicles
9. Bird view Tour: 25 Aug – 1 Sep 2007: Okavango Delta – 10 vehicles
10. Kalahari Tour: 22 – 29 Sep 2007: Botswana – 10 vehicles
11. Mozambique Tour: 17 – 26 Nov 2007: Inhambane – 5 vehicles
12. 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

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

SWAZI REG RAID – DO NOT MISS THIS EVENT!!!!

A 4x4 challenge! Come experience the Swaziland 4x4 Regularity Raid! Pack up the family, passports, camping gear and head for Swaziland. The Swaziland Regularity Raid is organised and run by the Four Wheel Drive Club of Swaziland and is becoming increasingly popular. Entries close at 60 competitors. A wide range of accommodation is available.

This year's Reg Raid will be 27 – 29 April. Commencing in the picturesque Ezulwini Valley it will test your driving skills, your vehicle's abilities and above all your relationship with your navigator! Experience the unspoilt beauty of this majestic Kingdom with a route covering a variety of landscapes. Due to the intensity of some obstacles, only 4x4 vehicles with low-range will be considered for entry.

Friday evening starts with vehicle scrutineering and a driver's briefing. Each competitor will receive a Route Schedule per day. Although this event is held under the auspices of Motorsport South Africa, it is a family event and if you drive responsibly you should not incur any damage to



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your vehicle. Prize giving rounds off the weekend event on Sunday evening with dinner and live entertainment.

Contact Gert Boshoff e-mail gert.boshoff@sappi.com

GO MOON GAZING ON 3 MARCH 2007

On Saturday night the 3rd March, I am having an all night evening with the umbral eclipse of the moon. The moon goes a live colour. I will be assisting people with astrophotography and will be doing a lecture on astrophotography as well.

The cost for the whole night will be R165.00 and it will include the Astronomical Hand Book for Southern Africa for 2007. Book Now. Keep well

Bill Hollenbach - wjh1@absamail.co.za

MOZAMBIQUE TRAVELLERS WARNING – NATURAL DISASTER

Current heavy rains have caused flooding in Mozambique, mainly in the provinces of Zambezia and Sofala, along the entire length of the Zambezi River. This has affected road travel and sanitation in these areas.

Travellers should avoid the affected areas until the situation has stabilized. Travellers currently in Mozambique should refrain from undertaking unnecessary overland travel in this area, monitor local news and weather reports, and follow the advice of local authorities.

South African Society of Travel Medicine (SASTM)

PLAGUE FOCUS IN ZAMBIA

Plague has broken out in eastern Zambia and has killed two people out of more than 140 who have contracted the disease, the country's health minister announced 3rd February. The plague, caused by fleas in the area, was first discovered two weeks ago in Sinda, a small town about 500 kilometres (300 miles) from the capital, Lusaka. Insecticides have been procured and sent to the affected areas.

Small foci of plague exist in Africa, Eurasia and North America and outbreaks are reported not infrequently. The plague germ is spread mostly by rat fleas but other rodents e.g. rabbits can harbour similar fleas. Insect repellants that are effective against mosquitoes also repel fleas. Treatment is effective with broad-spectrum antibiotics.

NAMIBIA – RHINO-TRUST CAMP SITE

I have found the Rhino Trust website, with some hope for contact - <http://www.rhino-trust.org.na/>

Regards

Janusz

(Ed. A worthwhile place to visit if you are touring NAM this winter!)

NISSAN QUERY LAST MONTH ANSWERED

I see one of your members is looking for a hub capstan winch. These were sold under the Huby Trax brand but the local factory closed/stopped making them some time ago. They were available at Makro, maybe it's worth checking if some branches have old stock lying around. Otherwise, I would suggest trying the various clubs (make sure to try LROC as I seem to recall seeing some of their members with these fitted), the internet and Junk Mail.

Steve Barley

CHILL BRU, THIS RHINO HOLDS ITS CHARGE – GET READY FOR EASTER!

It's a new year - so be daring and look at a new product!!! The truly new, fail safe, work anywhere, ruggedised, efficient and versatile 4 x 4 Refrigerator. Something new and exciting for your readers.

A Rhino portable refrigerator has a patented three-hour built in back-up battery and operate at angles up to 30 degrees off the level so it performs neck and neck with your 4X4 for sheer reliability, silent operation and a really cool interior. It has highly efficient microprocessor energy control, can run on a generator putting out a minimum of 3 amps per hour and there's a digital temperature and voltage display. It's rugged with tough tread plate exterior, stainless steel lining and high-density polyurethane insulation - and it has a temperature range of between 10C and – 28C.

Depending on its size (there are six), the Rhino can chill between 12 and 168 'frosties' and it's guaranteed to make ice in an ambient temperature up to 45C. It's solar ready, so you just plug and play - and play...

- **Operates anywhere.** It is the first global refrigerator with its unique power unit in all models that will operate from any mains supply, ranging from an incredibly low 60 Volts to 300 Volts, 50 and / or 60 Hz. It also operates off 12V battery and solar power.
- **Inbuilt Power Back-up.** To keep you going when everything else fails the refrigerator will continue to keep your contents at the required temperature for up to 5 hours.
- **Designed for the harshest conditions.** Rhino refrigerators are at home in the freezing Antarctica at ambient temperatures of -15°C, as is in the harsh desert at outside temperatures of 45°C.
- **Ruggedised operation.** Rhino refrigerators have been designed to exceed military specifications. It will operate on slopes of up to 30°.
- **Reliability.** Rhino refrigerators have a proven reliability which are further enhanced by the 'no quibble' 3 year warranty on the unit. Full range is available for hire (subject to availability).
- **Versatility.** From 10 litres to 120 litres, there is a model to suit your needs.
- **View full range: www.rhinoref.co.za**
- **We can custom build to the size of the trailer/caravan or vehicle.**

Noelene

083 460 6146/(011) 234 0400
Rhino Refrigerators
Johannesburg

EXCITING TIMES FOR THE FAMILY AT MAROPENG

There's never a dull moment, at the much acclaimed Maropeng in the Cradle of Humankind. It's the family place to visit these holidays. The spectacular Visitor Attraction takes you back to your origins and the kids have a whale of a time, going on a great adventure on the underground boat ride, digging for fossils, phoning a Dodo and the mighty hairy mammoth and playing on the interactive exhibits. Moms and Dads just love spending the day with the family as there's so much to see and do.

They'll be glad for the break to sit and relax, taking in the magnificent views, while enjoying a delicious buffet lunch at the Tumulus Restaurant or any one of the other fabulous eateries. If you would rather get away with the family for a day or so, why not stay in the dormitory style budget

accommodation. Bring friends and family and enjoy a night or two under our African sky with spectacular views. Don't delay and book for a group of 10 or more today.

Contact the friendly staff at Maropeng on 014 577 9000 or visit the website www.maropeng.co.za

4X4 IN DIE KLEIN KAROO BY DIE ABSA KKNK

31 Maart tot 8 April Daaglik

Rondom Oudtshoorn is van ons land se mooiste 4x4-roetes. Kom saam met **karoo4x4safari** se geakkrediteerde, ervare toergids vir 'n opwindende eko-ervaring tussen berge, klowe, fynbos en oneindige uitsigte. Selfvoorsien vir Bring-en-Braai op roete. Beperkte aantal voertuie per rit.

NB: Kontak Coen Basson 084 2333 600 vooraf oor wat om saam te bring, noodsaaklike vereistes vir voertuie, roetegradering en reëlings.

Bespreking slegs via Computicket en Absa KKNK

Duur 5 tot 8 ure. R360 per voertuig (geen passasiers agter op oop voertuie). Ontmoet daaglik 8.00 langs ingang na Klein Karoo Groep uit Parkweg.

DONGANE HOUSES IN MOZAMBIQUE – OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW

Just a e-mail to inform you that Willie will be in Dongane from 24 March 2007 to 10 April 2007. We have 5 chalets sleeping 6 persons each to rent to prospective clients at R100.00 per person per day.

Please let us know if you are interested to visit Dongane, for what period and how many persons will be in your group, so that we can do a booking for you. The units are self catering and bedding and cutlery is provided.

Please mail all reply's to: willie@mjvn.co.za or call at:083 454 4449 if you have any enquiries.

DISCO TDV6 MANUAL - LOSE A LITTLE, SCORE A LOT

February 14, 2007 - By John Cotton

Win some, lose some... Land Rover has introduced an "entry level" Discovery TDV6, which loses the sunroof, leather seats and climate control of the existing TDV6 – but at R415 000 buyers will save R35 000 over the full-spec model. It also gets a slick six-speed manual gearbox instead of the previously standard auto gearbox, and is now a five-seater instead of seating seven.

But while it might have lost a few features, this is still a handsome, hugely capable vehicle, and the specification sheet is still a long one, including electric windows, manual air conditioning and a full complement of safety features such as ABS with electronic brake pressure distribution, dynamic stability control, hill descent control, etc .

At the launch this week in the Southern Cape's Koo valley, the manual TDV6 trickled up, down and over steep tracks and tyre-shredding rocks, the 2.7-litre diesel engine giving a nice spread of torque.

Out on the road, it revels in its cruising ability; the gearbox with its positive gate is a pleasure to

use. And, considering this is a heavy vehicle, it returns very creditable economy considering its weight; we recorded 11.5 litres/100km during a fast run along the N2, with the manual gearbox making it easy to slick down a gear to surge past laden trucks.

The aforementioned torque also pulled the TDV6 up giant sand dunes later in the day at Vleesbaai. You get the feeling that the Disco will pull itself over anything thrown at it – the only weak point being the driver.

If he or she selects the correct terrain settings and steers the right line, the TDV6 will lug itself wherever it's pointed.

Criticisms? Well, the cloth that replaces the leather on the seats looks functional rather than attractive, though the seats themselves are comfortable and supportive, and anyway the air suspension does a good job of soaking up most nasties thrown at it - rocks, ridges, potholes, you name it.

Bottom line

This is a well considered addition to the Disco 3 range. It will go anywhere, swallow large loads, and carry five adults in comfort with reasonable economy. The automatic climate control may have gone but there's still a manual air-conditioning system, so no hardship there. On and off-road performance are good, and this Disco should do all a family could demand of it.

MOZAMBIQUE HOMES AVAILABLE NOW – EASTER WEEKEND

Hi Mozambique travellers,

I have a couple of houses available for Easter 6 – 9 April. 1x House at Ntsuty Lodge, Ponta Do Ouro – 6 Sleeper (R 1800.00 per unit per night), 1 x House in Inhambane- 6 – 10 Sleeper, Also Available over the weekend of the 27 April - 1 May (R 2000.00 per night for 6 and then R250.00 per person per night there after).

If you are interested please let me know and I will forward the information to you.

Rose Bilbrough
The Travel Bug
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www.thetravelbug.co.za

FUN 4x4 DAY AT DOORNRIVIER 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 Gesinsaweek waar u voertuie nie gaan krap of seerkry nie (opsionele, vrywillige bane vir die adrenalien-jagters!!). Ry verskeie roetes as 'n groep, wildbesigtiging is ook beskikbaar.

Bestaande kampeerterein:

- 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 Saterdagand.

'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

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

TRAVELLERS' DIARRHOEA

This may occur for a variety of reasons such as a change of drinking water or a different food. Sometimes it is due to a viral infection and occasionally a bacterial one.

Symptoms and signs:

This is usually due to a viral infection or to stomach pains and watery diarrhoea which is the body's way of eliminating the invading infection or contaminated food.

Treatment:

The illness usually lasts about 24-48 hours and may not need any treatment in adults other than fluids. Dry ginger ale or other soft drinks seem to be retained better than water if you are nauseated. Persistent vomiting can be treated with anti-nausea drugs. Persistent diarrhoea usually responds to anti-diarrhoeal medication.

Here are some useful tips for prevention of the condition that is likely to affect 40% of travellers to developing countries.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING TRAVELLERS' DIARRHOEA:

DO:

- Wash hands frequently and always before eating.
- Eat items that require little handling in preparation.
- Eat only well-cooked and hot food. If eating at a buffet, eat early and before the food cools or insects arrive.
- Eat only fresh fruits and vegetables that you have peeled or seen prepared in front of you. Avoid those that are washed in tap water.
- Drink hot beverages, such as coffee or tea.
- Drink bottled water or name brand carbonated beverages.
- Wipe off any bottle before drinking or pouring.
- Tie a coloured ribbon around the bathroom faucet as a reminder NOT to drink the tap water.

DON'T:

- Never drink tap water. Don't brush teeth with tap water.
- Never drink fresh water or standing water.
- Avoid any bottled water not opened in front of you.
- Avoid ice cubes. If you must have a cool drink then place the cubes in a small, clean, leak-proof bag and place the bag in your drink. Carry the bags with you.
- Avoid food from street vendors.
- Avoid shellfish or any uncooked seafood.
- Avoid uncooked fruits and vegetables.
- Avoid salads.
- Avoid dairy products.
- Avoid juices not prepared in front of you. Tap water may have been added.
- Minimise swimming and swallowing water unless well chlorinated.

SUMMERHILL 4x4 DAY

We invite you to join us in the fun of the eighth annual Summerhill 4x4 Family & Fun Day and Expo 2007. Date: Saturday 09 June 2006 - 8h00 till late. Venue: Natie's Farm / Gecko Lodge 3km from Hazyview on the R536 towards Sabie, next to the Kruger Park in Mpumalanga – the province of the rising sun!

This extremely popular 4x4 event is the highlight for the local community and is not missed by anyone interested in this fast growing action sport. Of all the 4x4 events in the area, this one is surely the king of entertainment, and has attracted more than 3000 persons last year - greater numbers are expected this year after last year's highly successful and attractive event.

To make an event like this possible we have to rely on sponsors, and by the nature of the event, each sponsor is offered an excellent and far reaching marketing platform to expose their brand as well as their products to a wide spectrum of the community interested in motoring, agriculture and outdoor activities. The Best Exhibitor's trophy is allocated to best stand and was awarded to Rudamans in 2006, for their innovative entertainment at their stall and quality exhibition.

The main attraction to competitors and spectators is the "proudly local" custom built obstacle course which consists of eight competitive sections and the showstoppers. The course is designed to accommodate only 45 vehicles in five different classes to be tested in a fun and safe environment: Short Wheel Base, Long Wheel Base, Modified Short Wheel Base, Modified Long Wheel Base, and Special Vehicles. Fantastic Prizes can be won by the winners of these classes, as well as for other classes like Best Co-driver, Ladies Driver, Worst Driver and Best Exhibitor.

Stiff competition can be expected from the 2006 overall winner – team Marius Pretorius and co-driver Yolanda Pretorius in a Jeep Wrangler .

Entry fee for the 4x4 competitors will remain the same as last year: R300.00 per vehicle - entries are open. Prospective competitors can enter by contacting Carol vd Westhuizen on her cell 0828291502, or by obtaining the entry forms and indemnity forms from our website: www.summerhill.org.za . Please fax your signed entry form, with proof of payment to 013 - 737-8179, or alternatively hand deliver to Summerhill School. On receipt of payment and completed entry form and indemnity form, a competitor number will be allocated and proof of entry will be faxed or emailed to you.

A host of other attractions promises to entertain the whole family for the day. These include a diverse range of outdoor exhibits with the latest models released in the auto and bike trade, all day live entertainment, a farmer's market, beer tent, food stalls, and a variety of safe activities for children of all ages, including suikerkaskenades. The day rounds off with prize giving, dinner and musical entertainment for the survivors. Applications are open for a stall in the farmer's market, please contact Andrea Fourie - numbers below.

A FUN day for the whole family - definately not to be missed! For the out of towners there will be a host of accommodation available, visit the website www.big5country.com for specials.

For more information, visit our website at www.summerhill.org.za or phone the event co-ordinators:

Steve Smit Cell: 0837881119 e mail: silindaspar@soft.co.za

Gavin Brough Cell: 0828235447 e mail: dbrough@soft.co.za

Andrea Fourie Cell: 082 5765231 e mail: bohms@mweb.co.za

LOOKING FOR A GUESTHOUSE CLOSE TO KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Please visit our web-site at: www.mpumalangaountryhouse.co.za

MORE BUDGET FOR TOURISM IN SA

SOUTH Africa's environmental affairs and tourism sector gets a R2 590m boost with this week's budget announcement, up from R2 018m allocated last year.

Four programmes within tourism that were addressed in the 2007 budget are:

*Tourism Support, which improves the competitiveness of the tourism industry through skills development, efficient services and facilitating the unblocking of barriers to tourism growth.

*Tourism Development leveraging support for tourism SMME development, including incentives, business linkages and SMME capacity. It also facilitates investment on tourism infrastructure.

*South African Tourism, which focuses on domestic and international marketing. Included in the 2007 budget announcement, is South African Tourism's allocation of R510.4m, comprising 81.8% of the total programme expenditure.

*Business Trust, which makes transfer payments to the Tourism Enterprise Programme. For SMME development in the tourism sector, Finance Minister Trevor Manual has allocated R65.8m to this programme.

Allocations towards 2010 formed a key part of this budget, with a R13.3bn boost, bringing the total contribution from national government to R17.4bn. The tourism department will continue to work closely with the 2010 FIFA World Cup local organising committee on tourism related matters. Other projects outlined in the budget include an increase in the number of black tourist guides trained, support to tourism SMMEs, implementation of a 2010 tourism plan, an accommodation SMME web-based booking system for 2010, among others.

To view the entire document, visit: www.finance.gov.za, click on Budget 2007, click on Estimates of National Expenditure and then scroll down to Economic Services and Infrastructure, click on the Environmental Affairs and Tourism PDF file.

UMBRAL ECLIPSE ON 3 MARCH 2007

Just to remind you all that the Umbral Eclipse of the moon on the 3 March is going to be special. Saturn will be up and all the summer objects to the rise of the Scorpion will be visible. The Magellanic clouds, our nearest galaxies in space, as well as the Southern Cross will be up all night.

The evening will be preceded by a lecture on Astrophotography and lenses. The lecture plus the whole night attendance at the game reserve will cost R165.00 pp. It is suggested that you read the manual of your digital cameras and make sure that you understand the manual settings.

If you have any doubt, please bring it with, and do not forget the tripods. I hope to have a live cast of the eclipse on the internet that night. Keep well

Bill Hollenbach

Astronomysa© Est. 1983
Astronomer @ Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve
Present Member of the ASSA
Email: wjh1@absamail.co.za
<http://www.astronomysa.co.za>

FISH FOR TOMORROW?

The global theme for World Wetlands Day 2007 draws attention to the intimate link between healthy fish stocks and healthy wetlands.

Estuaries and associated wetlands were chosen as a national focus because of their vital role in supporting fish and other species that have a direct value to people. South Africa has 255 estuaries along its 3,100 km coastline, many of which support specialised wetland communities such as mangroves and salt marshes. They provide nutrients that are washed out along the coastline and act as safe nurseries for many species and valuable feeding grounds for others. Subsistence estuarine fisheries are very important in terms of livelihoods, despite being small and localised, and these habitats also provide wood for building, are important tourism attractions and are valuable for health and aesthetic reasons.

However catchment degradation, pollution and onsite impacts such as insensitive development increasingly jeopardise estuarine health and functioning. Because they lie at the end of rivers, they bear the cumulative impact of a wide range of activities in their catchments that contribute to reducing water quality and altering the quantity and flow regimes of river water reaching the

estuary. Inflow into estuaries is reduced by dams, water abstraction for urban and agricultural use and thirsty alien vegetation in the catchment.

A range of legislative and conservation measures are being introduced to manage estuaries and their catchments sustainably, including the new Integrated Coastal Management Bill of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Resources Directed Measures of Water Affairs and Forestry.*

The Endangered Wildlife Trusts involvement with Wetlands:

- For over 10 years the Endangered Wildlife Trust has been working with wetlands through the South African Crane Working Group [SACWG] to ensure the survival of South Africa's three crane species and their natural habitats
- Established in 1995, The South African Crane Working Group is a national body which aims to coordinate and initiate crane and habitat conservation efforts in South Africa SACWG's objectives are to ensure the harmonious coexistence of natural crane populations and people in the same environment.
- SACWG is made up of a network of regional and national crane conservation projects and working groups and is active in all 10 key crane regions in South Africa.
- A number of scientists or experts in fields closely aligned with crane conservation have also been co-opted into the group.
- The new Marine and Coastal Working Group (MCWG) is developing activities and partnerships to help to raise awareness of the importance of protecting estuaries. The MCWG aims to reduce the negative impacts on estuaries and to help to conserve these essential coastal ecosystems.
- Support the Endangered Wildlife Trust and in its ongoing efforts to ensure sustainable Wetlands.

What you can do to help:

Building: - choose building sand that you are sure has not been sourced from estuaries
- don't build or buy property that is near or on the banks of an estuary or wetland.

Golf: ask where your golf course gets it's sand trap sand from and encourage them to use appropriate legal sources

Holidays: - when holidaying at the beach, don't interfere with the flow of rivers going into the sea. This is called breaching of estuaries and can impact negatively on the functioning of the ecosystem; - avoid

driving, quad-biking or walking on or near coastal dunes, estuaries and sensitive wetland areas

Farming: - Choose natural forms of soil enrichment and ensure that you don't over-fertilize as the excess will runoff into the rivers and ground water and eventually could accumulate in wetlands and estuaries causing eutrophication (too many nutrients).

Pollution: When visiting an estuary take your rubbish home with you or at least dispose of it in appropriate designated locations. Report any industrial runoff you may see flowing into a river or estuary

Conservation: Support conservation areas and activities aimed at protecting estuaries, coastal ecosystems and wetlands

Fishing: Find out which species of fish are overfished or breed in estuaries and avoid fishing for those. Do not fish for undersized fish.

Report any illegal or destructive fishing activities

Report any illegal activities that you see happening in or near to estuaries and wetlands to the relevant local authority.

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SMS the word WATER to 38383, to donate R10.00 to the Endangered Wildlife Trust

*Taken from Press Release released by Natural Bridge Communications on behalf of the Working for Wetlands Programme

"A healthy planet and an equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life"

CITRUSDAL 4x4x2 NAWEEK
29 & 30 September 2007

Citrusdal Toerisme bied weer die jaarlikse 2x4x4 naweek aan op 29 en 30 September 2007.
Besoek asseblief ons nuwe webwerf vir alle inligting www.citrusdal2x4x4.co.za

Kom geniet weer 'n naweek in die pragtige natuurskoon van die Olifantsriviervallei, hetsy met 'n 2x4, 4x4 of "quadbike". Vele roetes om van te kies wat wissel in moeilikheidsgraad of kom neem deel aan sommer net lekker "veldry".

Kontak vir Christine Tredoux by Citrusdal se inligtingskantoor indien u nog inligting benodig:
Tel/Faks 022 - 9213210 of epos info@citrusdal.info

HOOFBORG - CITRUSDAL CELLARS, Tel: 022 921 2233, www.citrusdalcellars.co.za

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 various all-inclusive and tag-along self-drive options to choose from, we meet the needs of adventurous local and international travellers looking for small-group or private tours to wilderness and wildlife destinations.

Visit our website at <http://www.navigators4wd.co.za> to view our full Tour Schedule for 2007.
E-mail us at info@navigators4wd.co.za to subscribe to our Newsletter, or to request specific details and pricing on our safaris and expeditions. Alternatively, contact our office on landline number +27 (0) 21 689 1825 or Chris Schlimper on mobile +27 (0) 83 675 3484.

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; Purros; 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 30 March 2007.

Dates: Friday 22 June to Tuesday 3 July 2007 (Windhoek to Windhoek).

Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 13 April 2007.

Dates: Saturday 14 July to Sunday 29 July 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).

Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 27 April 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. A memorable tour for anyone with a sense of adventure..."

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! This 20-day tour starts in Windhoek, Namibia and ends in Francistown, Botswana. 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: Monday 22 October to Saturday 10 November 2007 (Windhoek to Francistown).

Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 29 June 2007.

"Richtersveld Mountain Desert Wilderness" – 6 Days

We explore this unique wilderness area with its amazing rock formations, spectacular scenery and interesting botanical highlights that include the Giant Quiver tree (aloe Pillansii) and unusual Elephant's trunk or Halfmens (Pachypodium Namaquanum). Campsites are situated next to the river or on a mountain plateau. Join us on this tour to enjoy solitude, star-studded night skies, rugged landscapes, scenic campsites and interesting driving challenges.

Dates: Sunday 25 November to Friday 30 November 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).

Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 31 August 2007.

"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 makes this a truly special experience..."

Dates: Friday 7 December to Sunday 16 December 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).

Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 28 September 2007.

(March 2006)

Hit the Trail ... / ... continues

SAFARI CENTRE FACTS:

- Botswana is the world's largest producer of gem quality diamonds!
- The Moremi Game Reserve is home to nearly 500 different species of birds!
- Over two thirds of Botswana's land mass is covered by the Kalahari, which is home to the San (Bushmen)!
- The Makgadikgadi Pans in Botswana were originally large lakes, which dried out several million years ago!
- South Africa is home to the heaviest flying bird in the world! The Kori Bustard male can attain a total length of up to 150 cm, a wing length of up to 260 cm, and a weight of up to 18kg!
- South Africa is home to the largest reptile in the world! The largest Leatherback Turtle ever recorded was 3 meters long from the tip of its beak to the tip of its tail and weighed in at 916 kg!
- South Africa is also home to the largest Rhino population in the world, approximately 8500!

REMEMBER: Safari Centre is your one stop 4x4 accessories and outdoor equipment shop and the choice of 4x4 professionals. Client service is a high priority and our focus is on providing the best quality products at the best prices.

Our popular range of products and services include 4x4 accessories and the expert fitment thereof, outdoor and camping equipment, Off Road Trailers, 4x4 Driver Training and unforgettable African Safaris!

We currently have 7 branches countrywide, including Pretoria (Tel: 012 348 3253), Johannesburg (Tel: 011 465 3817), Durban (Tel: 031 566 5200), Cape Town (Tel: 021 595 3910), Polokwane (Tel: 015 295 2003), Ermelo (Tel: 017 811 2490) and Windhoek (Tel: 00264 61 236 488), and our outstanding quality is reflected in the two year workmanship warranty that we offer on all fitments, as well as the fact that we are one of only a few fitment centres in the country that is AA quality assured! Let Safari Centre be your first choice if you want to fit any equipment to your vehicle!

CROC KILLERS IN DOCK!

Two Mpumalanga men accused of illegally hunting and killing a crocodile in the Mlumati river near Komatipoort were expected to appear in the Tonga Magistrate's court on Wednesday, the SABC reported. The case against Alex Masinga and Simon Khoza was postponed in the Tonga Magistrate's Court in November last year after they were arrested by Tourism and Park officials. Masinga alleged that he was fetching water from the river when the crocodile attacked him and grabbed his leg.

He said that he used a panga to hack the crocodile and free himself. However, the scratch marks on Masinga's body were reportedly not compatible with a crocodile attack. A post mortem carried out on the crocodile discovered a snare around its neck and a net around its mouth, suggesting that it had been trapped. "Eventually, I thrust the panga down the crocodile's throat. The battle lasted for four hours," he told reporters at the time. The subsequent post mortem failed to find the

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panga inside the reptile, though a fishing net was found around the crocodile's jaws and a snare around its neck.

ZIMBABWE VENUE – SEKUTI'S DRIFT

Situated 11 km's from the majestic Victoria Falls and bordering the Chomabonda Game Reserve and Zambezi National Park lies Sekuti's Drift. The lodge comprises 10 luxury en-suite rooms all with private verandahs which afford guests unsurpassed views of the magnificent African bush. Savor mouthwatering meals overlooking the private watering hole which is regularly visited by elephant, lion and several species of plains game or cool down with a cold drink at the pool deck.

Victoria Falls offers a host of activities from a relaxing sunset cruise down the mighty Zambezi River to the hair raising experience of bungi jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge. It is also possible to ride on elephants or for a truly unique experience walk with lions to mention just a few. A full list of activities in the area is available on request all of which can be booked through the management at the lodge.

Sekuti's Drift is offering a special self catering rate for 4x4 groups of R250 per person per night sharing.

For further information contact Amanda Morgan Amanda@bhs.co.zw or visit our website www.landela.com and follow the links to Sekuti's Drift.

MOZAMBIQUE VENUES

I see in your newsletter that Mozambique is also a popular destination with your readers - we also have two places in Vilanculos. Casa Rex is an exclusive hotel and Deacra is a self catering complex (comprising of 2 houses). Their websites are www.casa-rex.com and www.deacra.com if you think your readers would be interested in utilising either of these properties.

KRANSKUIL 4x4 DAY

We would like to invite you to the annual kranskuil 4x4 for a family day packed with fun and action. It all happens - **28 April 2007**. At **7:00** sharp!!!!

Situated just outside of Koster (Northwest Province) on the Rustenburg road the surrounding area promises to be the perfect setting for the 4x4 enthusiast !!! 11 difficult obsticals waits competitors wich consists off softdrive, extreme, modified en standard catagories.

Accomodation is also available as the track is bordering the Klub Kranskuil Holiday Resort. And about 50km down the road you will find Rustenburg Kloof.

For Klub Kranskuil please phone:

Annette 082 306 5114

Moira 072 305 0695

Or office 014-5434349

Email: dbtrans@mweb.co.za

Entrie fees comprise R200.00 per vehicle participating or R20.00 per vehicle for spectators. Early entries via faxes or email is welcome - Faxes 014 – 5492018

Email: jwvdryst@mweb.co.za

For information on all these and more please contact:

Jacques 083 629 8261

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Lize 082 890 4257 of
Lorraine 014-5492018

If you know of anybody that would like to participate in this event could you please forward the email or information

Best regards
Nico de waal
072 206 9899.

TOUAREG GOES BACK TO ITS ROOTS FOR '07 LAUNCH

February 16, 2007
Les Stephenson

VW's Touareg SUV has developed a seriously good reputation among the 300 000 buyers who've taken delivery since its launch four years ago so what do you do to make something that ain't broke better? Go way more high-tech, that's what.

The latest version, just launched to the world's motoring news media over an extended period in the small North African country of Tunisia to emphasise the car's links, in name at least, with the desert-roving Men in Blue of the Sahara, looks much the same as before but there are serious under-the-skin changes.

VW, in fact, says there are 2300 new parts in the 2007 Touareg. The list of new technobits is nowhere near that long but it's still impressive and includes two new engines – both of which will appear in South Africa to take the total to six. The cars should start arriving here in April (prices and more specs then) but the mighty W12 model with the same 330kW engine as the VW Phaeton superdupersedan will only appear on the world's stage towards the end of the year.

The existing V6, V8 (not FSI) and V10 TDI engines will continue but joining them this year will be two more petrol engines – a V6 and an FSI-equipped V8. The Touareg will be the first VW to have the eight-cylinder, quad-valve FSI direct-injection engine with its 257kW and 440Nm on tap.

It's capable of 244km/h (at least in the model with optional air-suspension that can lower itself closer to the tar than the normal model) yet has the same rather astounding off-road capabilities as the other models. The V6, also with direct fuel-injection, promises 206kW.

The Touaregs made a name for themselves in the 2006 Dakar and improved on it in the 2007 event when South African Giniel de Villiers was up at the front and looking perfect for a win until an engine valve stuck, knocked a hole in the cylinder head and drenched the red-hot turbocharger in oil. The resulting engine fire halted him in the Sahara though he bravely rejoined to finish the race after, he told me, a 10-hour tow. Yes, Giniel was there in Tunisia as a sort of guest star/high-speed chauffeur taking awestruck jourmos at close to 200km/h along the beach in the (closed for the duration) 5900ha Port au Princes nature reserve on the Mediterranean coast.

Air suspension

The wind-whipped dunes rising from the beach were used to show off the roadgoing Touaregs' low-range off-road ability and the gravel roads through the incredibly green inland farmland populated by shepherds with crooks and Biblical cloaks and men on donkeys waving as we passed – also proved out the Touaregs' rough-rider side.

The air suspension (standard on some models, optional on others) can raise the chassis to levels approaching that of acknowledged 4x4 leaders such as the Range Rover to give the car – and remember, the Touareg looks more like a big hatchback than an unfortunately maligned 4x4 "Chelsea Tractor" – much the same off-road ability.

Triple door seals, waterproofed ignition plugs and other tricks allow it to wade through water a half-metre deep and electronic selection for high/low range and a series of combinations of differential locks will make sure the car keeps moving. Indeed, the VW Touareg has been where no other production vehicle has managed to go: one climbed 6080m to the summit of the highest volcano in Chile, others run as service cars to the racing Touaregs in the Dakar rally.

New mirror housing

Put simply – and VW does it so nicely – the Touareg can be an off-roader, a luxury family sedan or (with the suspension lowered to minimum) a pretty damn smart sports sedan that's 4.75m long, 1.93m wide and 1.72m tall. Lookswise, the Touareg has taken on the new face of VW: bolder radiator grille, revised headlights and bigger bumpers that contain deep-set fog lights. LED technology is used on the indicators and there are new mirror housings containing "side scan" warning lights that monitor traffic approaching from the rear to help avoid any unpleasantness when changing lanes.

The rear has been given a roof-edge spoiler, the tail lights now have an LED-effect look under smoked glass and the exhausts have been reshaped. Three types of alloy rim in sizes 17", 19" or 20" can be specified and the huge hatch door that comes with an electric release can be ordered with power closing.

Other technical improvements include:

ABSplus: Anti-lock brakes don't work very well on loose surfaces such as gravel and sand because the wheels tend to lock very easily and then, of course, the ABS system releases them. VW says its ABSplus overcomes this problem and will shorten stopping distances under such circumstances by up to 20 percent.

Automatic cruise control: The Touareg has followed other German marques by making available an advanced cruise control system that operates in conjunction with a front radar scanner to maintain a driver-set following distance on, say, a freeway but with the ability to stop the car should that distance close to threaten a collision – perhaps by the cars ahead braking hard and suddenly.

The system is controlled by buttons on the steering wheel and will maintain control within the speed range of 30-200km/h. Outside of that, it's up to the driver.

We've already mentioned the "side scan" system to prevent a collision when changing lanes but for the first time models equipped with air suspension can be fitted "a dynamic suspension package that includes roll compensation". Simply, it keeps the car flat through a series of curves by boosting the resilience of the shock absorbers on the side taking the heavier load.

Air suspension will be standard on the V10 TDI and the W12 will come with speed-dependent electronic control of the shock absorbers.

Locked power

All models – manual or automatic – have a six-speed gearbox and all-wheel drive transmission through front, rear and central differentials that, under normal cruise, split the engine's torque 50:50 front:rear. Electronic control can, however, shunt more power to either axle, depending on grip, or even to just one wheel. Or, of course, traction can be locked to send power to each wheel all the time.

Roll-over sensor: The Touareg constantly monitors the rate and angle of body roll and if for some reason a roll is inevitable, will tighten the seat belts that are in use and deploy head-level crash bags.

All Touaregs are rated to tow up to 3500kg (braked) but options here include a manually removable or power tow hitch – the latter extends from a hidden compartment then swivels and locks into place... how's that for impressing the camping crowd? And there's more: a rearview, full-colour camera (optional) that suggests steering angles and allows the drive to manoeuvre the towball directly and accurately beneath the trailer hitch.

Don't like trailers? No problem, there are also roof rails and a cargo management system that includes moveable tiedowns and a cargo volume that can grow according to seat configuration to 1570 litres.

All 2007 Touaregs will come with a full luxury specification, including power seats, windows and mirrors, air-conditioning (manual or auto), the full bubble of crash bags, leather upholstery and, of course, the choice of three petrol or three diesel engines but the full list of options and personalisation items runs to a dozen pages in the media information pack – if you're in the market, go talk to a dealer.

Simpler are the Touareg R-Line (though there are THREE!) and Individual packs that offer a wide range of factory-fitted items working in harmony with each other from fascia trim through seat finishes to door sills.

GOING TO THE CRICKET WORLD CUP – BEWARE OF MALARIA

International Society for Infectious Diseases - Date: Sat 10 Feb 2007

The Ministry of Health of Jamaica has confirmed 280 cases of malaria due to *Plasmodium falciparum* on the island between 6 Nov 2006 and 3 Feb 2007. Of these reported cases, 264 have occurred in Kingston, 12 in St. Catherine, 3 in St. Thomas, and one in Clarendon. There have been no reported deaths due to malaria.

The Ministry of Health is receiving technical cooperation from the WHO Regional Office for the Americas, coordinated by the WHO Country Office, as well as support from the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre to conduct intensified surveillance and to provide information to communities on adequate precautions to protect against mosquito bites. Vector control measures are also being implemented.

The outbreak in Jamaica is subsiding and an interruption in transmission is expected soon. However, the Ministry of Health plans to continue intense surveillance activities.

Jamaica is a non-endemic country for malaria. The occurrence of this outbreak highlights the importance of conducting surveillance in countries that are non-endemic to malaria.

WHO does not recommend any special restrictions to travel or trade to or from Jamaica.

CAMPISMO NINO – STILL PLACE FOR EASTER!

Hi there.

Just to let you know that we still have sites available for the April long weekends!! Thanks and kind regards

DEBBY for : CAMPISMO NINHO - MOZAMBIQUE

Debby.Viljoen@metso.com

BE CAREFUL IN KENYA - RIFT VALLEY FEVER - EASTERN AFRICA : KENYA

Source: International Society for Infectious Diseases Date: Mon 12 Feb 2007

The total number of deaths in Kenya attributable to Rift Valley fever virus infection has risen now to 150, the majority (114) reported from northern Kenya plus, so far, a few cases in adjacent regions of Somalia and Tanzania. Most deaths have been attributed to consumption or contact with of meat from illegally slaughtered animals.

LETS BE POSITIVE ABOUT SA!

Here is something interesting; it is a speech by Guy Lundy of Dimension Data Business Solutions:

Below is a speech I gave the other night. It went down so well with the audience that a number of people asked me for copies of it. So I thought I may as well share it with other people too so they can spread the message, especially those living overseas and those who care about spreading a positive message about South Africa.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Many years ago I was an exchange student in the USA, and every morning in my school, as in all schools across America, all classes came to a halt as the Pledge of Allegiance came over the loudspeaker system and every student stood to repeat these words.

I was quite amazed by this display of daily brainwashing in so-called "land of the free". But in hindsight it isn't actually that amazing, because we've all experienced how Americans are just so proud to be American. No matter how big their problems, and heaven knows they've got a lot of them, Americans will still spend hours telling you how fantastic their country is, and in fact, how it is better than, pretty much anywhere else in the world.

What a contrast then, when I later spent a few years in London and I ended up actively avoiding other South Africans. Why? Because frankly their negativity about our homeland irritated me so much! These people who will gladly put new South African flags on their cars and support a whole cottage industry importing biltong and NikNaks to munch on as they cheer on the Springboks at Twickenham, will spend hours telling anyone who will listen just how awful it is in South Africa, how lucky they are to be in London and how they are never going back because it's in such a mess. At the time I put it down to the fact that they were justifying why they were holed up in their dingy little flats under grey London skies while their friends and family enjoyed the sunshine on Camps Bay beach. However, when I came home, expecting to be greeted by the smiles of new South Africans everywhere, I was very disappointed to find that exactly the same attitude is pervasive right here. The number of people, who asked me why I came back here and why on earth I had brought my French wife with me, simply amazed me. I would have thought the answer was perfectly obvious.

I was later very disturbed, although not surprised, to hear that our president found it necessary to make a point to South African businessmen that they should stop running down their own country

on overseas business trips. Can anyone tell me what it is that makes sense about running down your own home to foreign people that you would like to visit here and invest here?

It seems to me like inviting your boss to dinner at your house in the hope of getting a promotion but discouraging him from coming because you're a terrible cook and your dog bites. Yes, we have problems, but so does everybody else. Sure, the Rand is down the toilet, but if you look closely enough, you'll see that just about every other emerging market country has suffered from the same woes - and that includes Australia and New Zealand, which everyone seems in such a rush to get to. And aren't we lucky that we aren't living in Argentina with their currency crisis? Sure, our neighbour, Zimbabwe, is run by a mad, despotic fool, but man am I glad that I'm not a Pakistani. We have AIDS and we also have an army of people trying to find a cure for it * possibly more vigorously than anywhere else since we have the most to lose from it. We do have corruption, and the Americans have George W. Bush, whether they like it or not. We've got all sorts of problems, yes, but must we be so hard on ourselves? In many ways we are far better off in South Africa as a whole than we have been at any time in our history.

Our people are getting educated and housed at a world-beating rate, we have amongst the world's cheapest electricity, our inflation is the lowest it's been in my lifetime, we have an economic growth rate and there is development everywhere you look.

We have so much going for us; we have so many good people, such an interesting mix of cultures; we have so much beautiful countryside and natural resources that we can draw from - we really have such a bright future ahead of us. Let us concentrate on the positive things that surround us every day, the sunshine, the people, the beauty, and the progress. Constantly criticising our country can only do harm for you personally, your personal feeling of happiness and well-being and for the country that you know from the bottom of your heart that you love, otherwise you wouldn't be here.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I implore you, do not run down South Africa, neither at home nor overseas. Become ambassadors for your country. Welcome foreign guests and point out how far we have come and how far we're going to go how they need to watch out for us on the world stage. And if you're overseas on business or holiday (if you can afford it), tell people how much South Africa has going for it and invite them to come and see for themselves.

I have devised my own pledge of allegiance and I'd like to repeat it to you now : "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the Republic of South Africa and to the interesting people, places and idiosyncrasies for which it stands, one nation under several religions, languages and cultures, yet indivisible, with freedom, basic needs and progress for all."

That is my pledge of allegiance to my home, our home. I pledge to help others see what is so good about it.

Our Beloved Country!!! South Africa, almost alone amongst emerging market economies, is set to escape virtually unscathed from the latest bout of investor panic sweeping the developing world's fragile economies (The Times, London, August 2001). The SA banking sector has been consistently ranked in the top 10 in terms of competitiveness (MD, Switzerland). When Nelson Mandela was inaugurated President in 1994, SA was insolvent (liabilities exceeded assets).

Today the Government's deficit is negligible - one of only a handful of countries in this position. We've had single digit inflation since 1993 - following 20 years of double-digit inflation.

Mortgage rates are at their lowest level since 1988. South Africa is one of only 12 countries, where we can drink water from a tap. Our tap water was found to be the 3rd best quality in the entire world.

Remember 15 years ago, in 1986: A state of emergency was declared White men did two years compulsory military service * 64 184 black people were removed from "white areas" * 3989 people were detained without trial * Our economic growth rate was 0.7 percent - today it is 3% * 64 countries had sports boycotts against SA!!!

South African wines win international awards every year and we have the longest wine route in

the world. Nelson Mandela, an international icon of forgiveness, tolerance, and humanity is our favourite son. The Kruger Park has the most innovative management of a national park anywhere in the world - and is the world's most profitable game park. Eskom is the largest producer of coal-fired electricity in the world and South Africans pay the least for electricity in the world. South African Breweries is the 4th largest brewer in the world and produces over 50% of China's beer!

Mercedes Benz C Class, BMW 3 Series and VW Golf/Jetta vehicles for all right-hand drive markets throughout the world are produced in South Africa. Didata grew from a local IT service provider into a huge, global networking company with branches in 30 countries. The Cape Peninsula has more species of plants here per hectare than any other area of the world.

Magnificent highways, warm, friendly, vibrant rainbow people! The world's most progressive Constitution Kreepy Kraulies - a South African invention - Mrs Ball's chutney and biltong. The world's best looking population.

"For every guy who holds up a gun, there are 99 who hold out a hand of friendship" - Dennis Beckett, journalist.

This is something I've never done, but after reading this, all I ask from you is to send this on, to your friends, family and others. Let us in this way deal with our negatives and let us try to be positive. By being positive we can continue to go far in life and we can all strive for a better and more positive life and country.

Regards to you all, peace, and positive thinking - that's the way to go!

STRONG DRIVE FOR MAHINDRA IN PETROL SUV SEGMENT

Mahindra South Africa is ready to compete at full strength in the petrol SUV segment after the company announced that stock levels of its Scorpio 2-litre Petrol SUV have normalised. "This announcement underscores the successes of our SUV sales and we believe that we are penetrating the petrol segment with a very competitive product," said Vijay Nakra, chief executive of Mahindra South Africa.

The new-look Scorpio range was launched in South Africa in April 2006, which reinforced the vehicle's technology-driven growth as a world-class vehicle. Since then, more than 3 000 units of the Scorpio range have been sold locally. Over 30 000 Scorpio SUV units were sold in India during 2006.

The Scorpio is a stylish, affordable family SUV. The 2-litre 4x2 Petrol model boasts a 1998cc four-cylinder 16-valve multi-point fuel injected engine from Renault. It delivers 91kW of power at 5 500 rpm and 180 Nm of torque at 4 000 rpm. This advanced engine includes throttle by wire and an electronic control unit. It makes use of a five-speed syncromesh manual gearbox.

"The Scorpio Petrol SUV has been the first visible evidence in South Africa of the collaboration between Mahindra and Renault, and the result is a tough vehicle with all the refinement of the Renault engine," said Nakra.

Renault and Mahindra & Mahindra started their collaboration in 2005. A number of successful collaborations have since followed, including the use of the Renault 2-litre Petrol engine in the Scorpio SUV, the manufacture and sale of Logan vehicles in India, as well as the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding to establish a greenfield plant in India. The site is expected to have a production capacity of 500 000 units per year within five years, offering innovative products to customers.

On the occasion, Anand Mahindra, vice chairman and managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra said: "The success of this partnership is scripted within the India growth story and Mahindra and Renault's shared vision for its customers. It is a chemistry that we discovered when the Mahindra-Renault joint venture was born."

Both companies have the same focus on product innovation and strategy; both strive for customer service excellence and global competitiveness. "Mahindra and Renault's joint vision is defined by more than just these factors. It is centred on our common wish for growth that will only come with making products that suit the customer's needs around the world," said Mahindra.

The Scorpio SUV is rugged but the cabin is modern with all the essential comforts and conveniences. The interior of the Scorpio boasts a world of convenience and comfort, beginning with a streamlined instrument panel and console, and a host of utility spaces.

There is also a multitude of storage possibilities available: can/ cup alcoves, multi-utility spaces, a map pocket and a spacious glove box. Other notable comforts include power steering, electric windows, a powerful heating vent and aircon system with vents in the rear, electric fuel lid opener, defogger and cell phone holder and charger points.

These features enhance the Scorpio's appeal and dynamic performance to give customers their desired motoring pleasure. One of the Scorpio's key features is that it can accommodate eight people in three separate rows, with ease. It also has a sliding middle row facility, which allows the passenger flexible legroom space.

The petrol SUV is currently being offered as a family vehicle with options with your purchase such as a free DVD car entertainment system to keep the kids happy or a nifty car cooler for the outdoor enthusiast.

Price:

Scorpio 2.0 Petrol 4x2: R166 400

The new Scorpio comes with a standard three years/ 100 000 km's warranty and an optional service plan at either three years/ 60 000 km or three years/ 100 000 km is available.

GET TO THE RICHTERSVELD SAYS GETAWAY MAGAZINE

Pack your bags and head to the Richtersveld Transfrontier National Park for a remote and adventurous getaway in the wilderness on South Africa's northwestern border. In this extreme environment, you will need a high SPF sunblock, a good map, shade cloth, your own fridge and plenty of water. Oh yes, and a 4x4 with back-up equipment, a GPS and a sense of adventure are pretty useful. Prepare well because in summer temperatures can reach 50°C in the shade.

The Orange River quenches the thirst of the Richtersveld and its travellers, providing plenty of opportunity to wallow in its gloriously cool waters, do a 'nappy-run' down the rapids strapped into a lifejacket nappy-style, fly-fish for monster yellowfish, or float down the river in an inflatable croc (contact Umkulu Adventures on 021-853-7952).

The Richtersveld supports a diverse and unique ecosystem and has more endemic species of succulents than anywhere else in the world. Some of the interesting plants you may stumble across are the giant quiver tree (*Aloe pilansii*), kokerboom (*Aloe dichotoma*) and halfmens (*Pachypodium namaquanum*). The park is also home to about 60 animal species, including the

rare Hartmann's mountain zebra, jackal, leopard and black-backed rock hyrax.

Although the park has seven camp sites where you can pitch your tent for R110 a night, we recommend you stick to those along the bank of the Orange River if you visit between November and March. The chalets, which cost from R415 a night for two people, are hot in summer, except at Sendelingsdrif where they are air-conditioned. You can spend the day swimming and fishing, and in the evenings you can visit the park's arresting rock formations, examine the small and resilient rock gardens of rare stone plants (*Lithops*) and strike poses next to two metre high halfmens that stand tall against the sunset sky.

For more information and to book, contact SANParks on 027-831-1506, or visit their website www.sanparks.org.

There is a daily conservation fee of R30 unless you have a Wild Card. Leaded petrol and diesel are available at the park entrance at Sendelingsdrif, so fill up here or, if your vehicle runs on unleaded, at the last town en route and take some extra jerry cans of petrol along.

Emma Bestall
Getaway intern

MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS

MASAZANE BREAKAWAYS – UP TO 8 DAYS:

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

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

CAMP AFRICA HUTS AND CAMPSITE (LIMPOPO, RSA)

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

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

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)
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April 2006

From the Tracks – Reader Feedback

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Hey Alan,

Well as 'one of your regular testers' ☺ I just tested the #77 and it DOES NOT WORK from my phone (Nokia 6680) – you get a "this number does not exist" message coming up.

Thanks YET AGAIN and AS USUAL for an AWESOME news letter – it's one of the highlights of my month ☺

Cheers
Trevor Matthews

Alan,

MARCH 2007

Re the #77 process. I am amazed that you let yourself get caught like this. Please check out website "Snopes.com" Urban Legends Reference Page". I have forwarded their Newsletter to you.

Kind Regards

Frits

(Ed. Thanks Fritz, not me being caught – I put it out there to see what response I get, as I do not have the time or inclination, and it normally says that. But it is interesting to see the responses. This 'hoax' web site is great! Sure many readers can get a look in there for those office spam!)

Go see <http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/c/cell77.htm>

It DEFINITELY doesn't apply in this country...

Van Bergen, Charles Tolmie

Hey Al

Compliments of the season to you and your family, hope 2007 is a good one! Congrats also on the new format newsletter, looks really professional and is much easier to read.

Steve Barley

Thanks for informative letter.

Patrick Cruywagen

SA4x4 Bush Editor

The article by Mike Farmer on cross-ply vs radial tyres refers. He says somewhere in the middle: "... until Michelin invented the radial tyre process in the early 1970s;" This date is wrong.

I bought my one and only new car in Dec 1960, an Alfa Romeo Guilietta 1300 cc, which came with superb Pirelli radials. After that first set of tyres I used Michelin. To check the date I googled to 'radial tyre' and <http://www.longstonetyres.co.uk/radial.php> says that Michelin patented the first radial design in 1946.

The new e-zine format is good !

Kind regards,

Geert F de Vries

Please keep sending. Although we are in KwaZulu Natal the information is passed on far and wide and we do attend some functions when we can. Keep up the good work.

Regards,

Chris Mathews.

Gateway Nissan/Nissan S A

Hi Alan, I always read the newsletter, most interesting, thanks for the hard work.

Cheers

Willie Long

Kirkhill 4x4 Farm, Swaziland

ENTHUSIASTS MEETING FEEDBACK

Hi Alan

Thanks again for a great get together last night just to follow on to a few things:

I need the following contact details please:

- The person that did the Garman presentation
- The Insurance for 4x4 contact details
- The Tracks4Africa URL for their web site

Thanks again and have a good one.

Chris Bothma

(Ed. Great to see that speakers get follow up from attendees)

READERS EXPERIENCES SHARED

LEEUNAWEEK aangebied deur 4x4 Klub en Alex Smit van Eco4x4Africa.com

Die geleentheid om langs die leeus te slaap was so aanloklik dat ek die dag afneem en 'n fietsren kanselleer. Ons moet vroeg daar wees en dis nog drie ure se ry vanaf Pretoria. Die vorige naweek het ek 'n band verloor (dis na 90000Km harde werk) en my getroue LC se kragstuur het gestaak. Selfs die geskarrel om weer veilig mobiel te wees kon ons entoesiasme vir die naweek nie demp nie, al is ek eers Vrydag 16h00 by die bande plek gehelp. Met die Ingomyama gehak durf ons die pad aan en danksy GPS is niemand besorg dat ons die afdraai plekke sou mis, selfs in die donker.

By Tau Roara Lodge (Plek waar die leeu brul) aangekom word ons vriendelik verwelkom deur die eienaar Gerhard Griesel. Ek het nooit geweet mense kan met leeus boer. Die kampeer area ene grasperk – groen en skoon. Teen hierdie tyd al goed donker. Dit neem net 15 minute om my kamp staan te maak om gou by die vriendelike gekuier om die vuur aan te sluit. Alex Smith se kampvuur brand vrolik en die kos pakkies staan gereed. Dis mos hoe dit moet wees – na week se harde werk! Alex se menslikheid as gasheer is ongekend en gou-gou is almal goeie vriende – Alex en ons 8 stuk families. Dan laat Basjan sy welkom hoor – en die ander leeus, skaars 'n goeie spoeg ver, gesels saam. Ek moet maar glo die heining is stewig want dis lankal te donker om self seker te maak. Dit eet en dit gesels. Ons leer van leeus en kosmaak en luister na die wonderlike ervarings van almal om die vuur. Georganiseerd leeu jag het, as die volgens die reëls geskied, wel baie meriete. Ongelukkig moes ons ook stories hoor waar die riglyne nie gevolg word. Om so 'n grootse dier nie eens as sportiewe kans te gee steek almal dwars in die krop. Saam met die laaste gebrul skuif almal na hul onderskeie lêplekke. Party wil nog gesels, ander vir oulaas bietjie medisyne proe, maar gou is die werf stil. Mens wonder hoeveel die leeus – en twee groot tiere – snags rondloop en of hulle darem sal onthou daar is 'n heining tussen ons.

Saterdagoggend wys Alex weer hoe om brunch te maak vir klompie mens – gou, flink effektief, genoeg en sonder om te mors met kos. Gelukkig eet ons nie elke oggend so – ander kan mens die insidensie van kardiovaskulêre siektes verander. Met die innerlike versterk is dit tyd om die leeus van nader te leer ken. Seker sowat 10 hokke, elke so kwart rugbyveld. Party hokke het ouer leeus en ander met jonger leeus. Die gemak van Gerhard die wilde diere hanteer het almal laat nader staan tot so meter van die ou grotes. Dis foto's neem en die groot bekke bewonder. Dit lyk nie eens of die leeus 'n tandeborsel mis, so skoon is hul tande. Daar is ook geleentheid om saam met Dirk die welpies vas te hou. Die tiere nou bietjie lui want hulle had reeds hul oefening vroeg oggend al langs die draad op en af – die tiere aan die eenkant en 'n flukse Nadia aan die anderkant.

Dit was ook 'n naweek geormerk vir sommer net ontspan. Tereg het die jaar pas begin maar reeds in top spoed en daar is nog 'n lang pad voor. Elkeen kon sy eie takies afhandel of dit nou huiswerk, leeswerk of beplanning was en die vir die res was dit somme net kuier. Na bietjie rondryk / afkyk van die ander kampers het ek verkies om aan die oë te werk. Laatmiddag neem Gerhard ons na die buurplaas vir wildbesigtiging. Ek glo nou wilde diere het ook emosie en sou

dalk goed met mens kon klaarkom as mens self nie so aggressief was. Vir aandete leer Alex almal hoe om plat hoenders binne hul plastiek omhulsel oor die kole te braai. Alta se pap en bykosse rond die ete perfek af en ons eindig met gesonde poeding van vrugte en vla. Dis nou om op te maak vir die oggend se spek en eiers (wat party saam met Coke en Diabeetpille moes afsluk).

Teen hierdie tyd is ons al gewoon aan die leus se gebrul. Na winderige nag, en lekker reën, roer meeste Sondag nie te vroeg nie. Die stilte gee kans om jou gemoed skoon te kry – reg vir die weke wat kom. Ons sien hoe die tiere gevoer word met twee doodgebore lammers. Almal gebruik die kans om vir oulaas die nabyheid van die koning van die diere te ervaar. Alex maak 'n varknekpotjie en Alta versier die meegaande slaai. Die res kuier met Alex wat kort-kort nog 'n storie kom vertel. Na ete is dit net oppak – vir oulaas planne maak vir weersiens, voor ons die pad vat om betyds te wees vir Sondagskool.

Dankie aan Alex en Alta Smit van Eco4x4Africa.com asook Gerhad en Carina Griesel van Tau Roara Lodge vir hul wonderlike gasvryheid. Die naweek kon almal hul bors en kop skoonmaak.

Adriaan Snyders

4X4 TRAIL & OVERLAND GUIDES COURSE PRESENTED BY MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS

All the club members who attended the overlanding guide course could not wait for Wednesday afternoon to arrive so we could be out of the office and off to Makhado (Louis Trichardt) for the course at Masazane Expeditions. Everyone drove there on their own time.

Rian Habig, the Ungerers (Johan and Anne-Marie) and the Swanepoels (Jan and Elmarie) all arrived at the same time – about 18h00 at Camp Africa situated halfway up the mountain between the pine forest trees. We proceeded to the office (which incidently is in the bar). There Hendrik Behrtel and Peet Koekemoer had already booked in and were enjoying the hospitality of our host Dave Van Graan. The rest of us immediately joined in with the introductions. Another lady, Emma Broom, who works for Wagon Trails was also there to complete the overlanding course with us.

We were shown our places where we could pitch trailers or tents. Dave organized some of us to cook some hamburgers for the evening. We were still waiting for Nic Nel who phoned and said he would be there by 20h15. We ate later and he only rocked up at 22h30. Dave arranged who would make breakfast the next morning, to be ready by 07h00!. Classes would start at 08h00. The cooking partners were established as everyone had to get a chance to prepare meals for the rest over the next few days.

We had early breakfast at 7 on Thursday morning and then started at 8 with classes. We completed the registration forms and then the classes began. Tea was served at 10 am and lunch at 13h00 (cooked by members from the group). We continued at 14h00 till 17h00 when we socialized with some locals who came to visit. Dinner was had, also cooked by group members. Koos Moorcroft arrived and we were all introduced to our lecturer for the next day. Some of us went to bed early and some socialized till the early morning hours.

The Friday morning breakfast was had early (07h00) and we started with lectures again at 08h00. This time it was Koos, lecturing us on survival in the bush – very interesting and we learned a lot. Some members provided lunch at 13h00 and then we went on with Koos and Navigational skills, map reading and some compass work. We also did some practical exercises where we had to determine our position by using a topographical map and a compass. An exercise enjoyed by all.

That evening some members had the opportunity to cook for the rest of us. We enjoyed dinner and then socialized again till late in the evening.

Saturday morning saw us having breakfast and then starting again with lectures. Dave was finished with all the lectures by lunch time. Thereafter we had time to study as we were writing a 180 point exam the next morning. We were all sprawled all over with our noses in the books. Dinner was cooked once again by some members and most went to bed early.

Breakfast was had early Sunday morning and then everyone was again seen with their noses in the books. We started the exam at 09h00. Most of us were finished by 11h00. We then marked the exams. Everyone passed!!!! We then packed up, said our final goodbye's and started the long road back home.

It was a great 4 days where we learned a lot of interesting aspects around overland and trail guiding. We are all looking forward to the times where this knowledge would be put to the test. The only thing still left to do – COMPLETE THE 9 ASSIGNMENTS!!!

And let's get a woman's viewpoint on this course.....

Hi, here is Mrs Swanepoel's feedback on the Guide's course:

Upon our arrival on Wednesday afternoon, we quickly settled in and put up rooftop tents, camping tables and chairs, etc. and then joined our host, Dawid van Graan, and the rest of the course participants who had already arrived. The camp sites are informal but very well maintained and camping was a pleasure. The ablution facilities were clean and adequate (no standing in cues).

As usual, my friend Anne-Marie Ungerer and I received a few curious glances since we were once again the only women on course (with the exception of one other young lady). This is no longer strange to us, but some of the "manne" in the 4x4 community still seem to expect only men on these types of courses. To me it is important that my husband and I can share these experiences and really enjoy doing the courses together – it is great "quality time".

Each morning we were up bright and early and ready to learn as much as possible from our experienced course instructor. Much to our delight, we realised that most of the curriculum for this course had been covered previously on our Bush Survival Course or other 4x4 associated courses. However, we were surprised by the impact of having to take responsibility for a group of clients instead of our usual "happy-go-lucky" attitude of everyone having to look after themselves. Dawid clearly has a wealth of experience and is a wonderful teacher who gladly imparts his knowledge with those who share his passion for the bush.

Our culinary skills were tested as we had to prepare our own meals with whatever food had been purchased by Dawid prior to our arrival. This certainly took some imagination but we had a feast each day! This experience was great for teamwork and quickly we made up "cooking teams" for all the meals. Once again, a very practical example of how you sometimes have to cope in the bush without a Pick a Pay or Woolies food store around the corner.

The three ladies kept up during the course without any problems, much to the surprise of some of the gentlemen, and we all thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the training. The exam was rather nerve racking because none of us had written any kind of exam for many years. However, it definitely helped that we have some experience in all the aspects covered and all passed the exam with flying colours!

Fortunately our whole group consisted of experienced overlanders and therefore no off-road driving and "roughing it" was necessary this weekend. However, Dawid includes a whole section on 4x4 driving for groups who lack this experience.

On a more serious note, I believe you need to be prepared for almost any and every type of event when overlanding. The harsh reality is that things can go wrong. Women should not assume that the guys will always be there and be able to take control of a situation in the bush. I think it is critical that women are knowledgeable and are able to take over control of the situation should this be required. During 4x4 driving training sessions the ladies are often too nervous to try driving themselves. I always encourage them to try and leave them with the thought that the last thing they need in the bush is for hubby to be injured and they have to drive for the very first time over difficult terrain with absolutely no experience. I believe women underestimate their abilities and it is wonderful to see the triumph on their faces when they also manage to succeed.

This type of course is excellent preparation for the unexpected whilst in the bush! It covers driving experience, recovery techniques, navigation skills, survival skills, first aid and many more.

I sincerely hope that more ladies will become involved in all the aspects of off-roading in future!

Elmarie Swanepoel

(Ed. Excellent feedback and thanks for taking the time to write (all of you) and share this with the readers...maybe you will all be a great inspiration to others who want to do this training)

NUUS UIT DIE KAROO

Oorsese toeriste is in vervoering oor ons pragtige berge. Hulle verklaar maklik dat die Klein Karoo die mooiste omgewing is wat hulle al gesien het. En dan was hulle al oral!

Sien ons dit ook met lekkerkry raak? Seekant toe van Oudtshoorn lê die vaalgroen Outeniquas. Waar hulle in die yltes ophou, vat die Langeberge met hulle skurwer lywe oor en sleep aan Kaap se kant toe tot waar die oog nie meer kan kyk nie. Binneland toe van Oudtshoorn skrik jy elke keer as jy die massiewe Swartberge sien - wat iewers van sonop se kant begin en aanhou sonder toe tot hulle verste voerpunte in die mistigheid verlore raak. En tussen die twee walle berge rus die Olifantsriviervalleivloer vol kleure en lewe en oorvloed.

'n Paar jaar gelede het ek besef baie mense het die 4x4-voertuie waarmee hulle elke jaar 'n lang reis na byvoorbeeld Botswana, Mosambiek of Namibië aanpak. Verder is dit dikwels skoolkar waarmee Ma die kinders skool toe ry. Hulle kom nie by 4x4-ry uit nie, want hulle wil eerstens nie alleen ry nie (doodreg so ook) en tweedens weet hulle ook nie regtig waarheen nie. En Tussen Ladismith, Uniondale en Mosselbaai is daar meer as twintig pragtige 4x4-roetes.

Toe begin ek *karoo4x4safari*, 'n georganiseerde minstens maandelikse saamryery iewers in die omgewing. Dagritte, naweekkampering. langnaweke en skoolvakansies.

"By word of mouth" werk goed en belangstellendes se name kom op my groepadreslys en ontvang maandeliks my nuusbrief, "HOOR DAAR!". Daar lees hy van die vorige rit se dinge en van die volgende rit wat beplan word. Nou kan hy my skakel en bespreek. Dis nie 'n klub nie en dus geen lede nie. Enigeen wat vooraf met my reël, 'n geskikte voertuig het en bereid is om die billike toerkoste te betaal, kan saamgaan. Dikwels passasiers sonder 4x4 ook.

Mense daar buite raak los van die bindinge en ingehokthede van hul daaglikse beroepe en geroetineerde bestaan. Daar waar die stilte raas en jou oog nie kan glo dat hy so ver kan sien nie en jou kampvuur se rokie regop na die helder sterre toe trek. Pa, Ma, kind ontded mekaar opnuut in luuksheid van die Natuur. Met 'n 4x4 kom jy maklik en veilig op die hoogste en laagste plekke uit wat jy andersins nooit sou gesien het nie. Ons jaag en duik en spring nie, ons praat nie lelik nie, ons ry stadig en veilig en ons drink nie alkohol op 'n 4x4-roete nie. Ons is ekovriende met passie om die Natuur te bewonder, bewaar en beskerm.

Langer toere ook, soos die immergewilde Baviaanskloof, Montagu, Steytlerville, Gamtoos. Laasjaar was ons vyf voertuie wat by 'n ander operateur met ses voertuie by Ghanzi in Botswana aangesluit het vir 'n formidable toer tot by die Caprivi, die Delta, Moremi, ens. Einde April ontmoet ons by veelbesproke Sani-pas en toer reg deur Lesotho, op, dwars en af. Lieflike toer in Die Bergkoninkryk" oftewel "Die dak van Afrika", Slaap in B&O herberge.

Maar eers die groot hoogtepunt met die KKNK eersdaags. *karoo4x4safari* is as Feesaktiwiteit in die Feesgids opgeneem en daaglikse begeleide 4x4-toere is deel van die fees. Kaartjies by Computicket, maar belangstellendes skakel eers met my vir die inligting. Daar is skitterende roetes naby en die Klein Karoo se natuur-juwele gaan deur baie sintuie ontdek word.

Coen Basson

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:

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

January 2007

Fresh from the Bush – New Products

ESCAPE GEAR

Escape International Seat Covers are manufactured using 100% natural 510g Cotton canvas. This fabric has proven strength and is well known for its durability. The natural Cotton composition of the covers allows them to be breathable, an essential quality when considering the African climate and potential long hours spent on (and off) the road.

The fabric is treated with a water, oil and dust repellent coating, providing maximum protection to your vehicles' upholstery. This treatment does not, however, affect the breathe ability of the covers. Escape Seat Covers are removable and washable. Each range of Escape Covers has been custom designed for your model of vehicle, ensuring they provide the best fit, are comfortable, and look good too. The covers are available in light khaki, slate grey and dark khaki, and are designed for a wide range of vehicles including Toyota, Land Rover, Jeep, Isuzu, Mazda, Ford, Nissan and Mitsubishi/Colt.

For more information on Escape Seat Covers, contact your nearest LA Sport Branch nationwide or visit us at www.lasport.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.

Liouwa Plains Wildebeest Migration-Western Zambia.

4-17 November 2007.

Liouwa 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.za

e-mail: info@explore-africa.co.za

Tel/Fax: 012-6635319

Cell: 082 805 6765 (Office)

(January 2007)

Feedback from Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs

Hi Adventure / Nature Nuts

I am sure you have all had a wonderfully great start to 2007... cannot believe it is the middle of February already...

I am sure you have all received the AGM Notice that Isla Blasa of LROC so kindly sent out. There are quite a few portfolios that need filling on the National Committee – so please guys and gals look yourself in the mirror and make that decision to help out!! I am not going to tell any tall stories – it IS hard, dedicated work... and voluntary. If you have time on your hands and can help out... please let Jakob Jordaan know at your earliest convenience - jakob@global.co.za or 082 808 1422.

From the AGM Notice you would also probably have seen that I have resigned as PRO. It was a difficult decision as I truly enjoyed being involved in such an important group of people but I eventually decided that me staying in Louis Trichardt has its disadvantages after all... My difficult decision was based on two (2) main reasons:

1. Firstly, Leon Zaayman and I thought that residing in Louis Trichardt would not be too much of a problem... but unfortunately IT IS...!! And is the main reason for my decision. I feel it unfair to the Members of the AAWDCSA. I am in no position to visit motor manufacturer head offices, etc. which is part of the job of the PRO. Organising deals for Members in Louis Trichardt would ONLY benefit the Louis Trichardt Club and will most definitely not be on a National Level. I strongly feel that someone should be appointed in the Gauteng region to be of benefit to the AAWDCSA Members...
2. Secondly, **Camp Africa** is picking up in popularity and **Masazane Expeditions** also needs my attention – as you are all already aware. The three (3) year audit contract I signed last year also takes up my time of course.

I am going to miss you all and hope that your Club will make a point of coming to visit us at **Camp Africa** at some or other time... Please do keep in contact with me – please keep sending those e-newsletters...

Jacqui van Graan – Outgoing PRO

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 Centurion Area this year, at competitive pricing. The club is running these as a service to this newsletter reader. EVERYONE WELCOME.

2007 COURSES - EXCITING NEWS!!!!

4x4 Offroad Adventure Club, the leader in value added training for the outdoor industry in Gauteng since 2003, has joined forces with Echo 4x4, a leading 4x4 trailer manufacturer, fitment centre and retail outlet in 2007, to present a range of value add courses for their members, outdoor enthusiasts and the industry at large. At the modern venue at the Echo 4x4 Centre in Centurion, enthusiasts will be able to participate in the following courses (potential) this year:

GPS Training (next one in May)
GPS Software Training
Outdoor Photography
Bush Medicine
Bush Mechanics
Fire Fighting for the outdoor enthusiast
Tyre Repairs
Video Camera usage, tips & traps
Offroad Trailer / Caravan Towing Fundamentals
Snake Course
...and potentially much more....

These courses will be repeated at least twice in the year, across two 6 month cycles, but there are 4 definite GPS courses. Subject matter experts will present the training. Watch the newsletter and direct mail shots for further details and the program once it has been released. However, here is the first one!!!! Tell your friends.

4x4 OVERLAND & TRAIL GUIDE COURSE

This is a reminder for the only planned courses in 2007... Please book with Jacqui as soon as possible... Please take note that these dates may differ from the newsletter we sent out previously - we had to make changes due to sporting events, etc.

Masazane Expeditions will present the 4x4 Trails and Overland Tourist Guide Course as follows:

SOUTHERN RSA REGIONS	:	15 TO 19 MARCH 2007
NORTHERN RSA REGIONS	:	12 TO 16 APRIL 2007
NORTHERN RSA REGIONS	:	08 TO 12 NOVEMBER 2007
SOUTHERN RSA REGIONS	:	22 TO 26 NOVEMBER 2007

Please remember that one of the prerequisites to registration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) is a valid First Aid Certificate.

Contact details:

info@masazane.co.za / +27 - 15 516 5717 Telephone

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

DONATION OF PRIZES TO THE ZIMBABWE 4x4 CLUB'S COMPETITION

26th February 2007

To: Alan Goodway
4X4 Offroad Adventure Club

Dear Alan

RE. MINI ECO CHALLENGE 23rd, 24th and 25th February 2007 (ZIMBABWE)

On behalf of The 4X4 Club, I would like to thank you for the donation of various prizes for our event. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves gaining new knowledge about the environment especially from our two guests, Bruce Carruthers for a very informative slide show and talk on Saturday evening on his most interesting hobby, conservation and animal relocation throughout the region, and Doug MacDonald for his very informative guided walk Sunday morning. All competitors, no matter how experienced they thought they were learned something new on the 4x4 recovery exercise and the driving skills exercise was very entertaining.

We had ten teams this year one of which was an all ladies team, Julia Chambers and Carol Weare, who managed to come in the top four, Mads and Lisbeth Kirk were first over all, with Tim Thorburn and Mike Soltau, Mac and Jenny Bailey being the other two teams in the top four. We are hoping Good Year will sponsor these four teams to participate in the semi finals of 2007 Eco Challenge, as they did in 2006 but we will have to wait and see.

Our Mini Eco Challenge was a great success this year and because of last years success the Mini Eco Challenge will become an annual event in our 4x4 calendar. When your next up in Zim please give us a call and possibly join us on one of our events.

Yours sincerely

R CHAMBERS

THE 4 X4 CLUB
ZIMBABWE

2006 CLUB AWARDS DINNER

Over a 100 bodies turned out for the 2006 Club Recognition and Awards Dinner at the beginning of February 2007. A fancy venue was chosen, viz. the Golden pippet Conference Centre in Centurion, and a grand meal was prepared for all. Members started arriving as the sun set in the West, symbolically portraying the close of last year's 4x4 scene, and awaiting the rise of the new year (which is well underway already).

After an initial welcome, Alan saw to it that the kids were fed, they got their surprise packs, and the adults could tuck in to a hearty meal. When the first 2 courses were completed, the awards started. Some statistics were displayed such as:

The club had over 29 Club activities this year

- Kick Off Function
- Taaibos 4x4 day trip
- Front Runner Mtg
- Serendipity 4x4 Weeken
- African Outdoor Experience trip
- Daberas Long Weekend
- Honeydew Meeting
- Botswana Long haul
- Berakah 4x4 day trip
- Mabote River Camp
- Tau Roara Weekend
- Zimbabwe Long haul
- Doornrivier 4x4 Weekend
- Danvill Project
- Lots of Training (GPS, Bush Medicine etc.)
- Echo 4x4 Meeting
- Protea 4x4 day trip
- Astronomy Training
- Kareekrans 4x4 day trip
- Kgalagadi Longhaul
- Swarhoek 4x4 day trip
- Cheese & Wine
- Outdoor Warehouse Mtg
- West Coast Long haul
- 3 Provinces 4x4 Weekend
- Grease Social
- Ezemvelo Weekend
- Kempton Caravan Mtg
- Walk for Wildlife

Except for the 8 qualified guides in the club, the following people are completing their qualifications now:

- Mike Collinge
- Peet Koekemoer
- Hendrik Behrtel
- Johan Ungerer
- Anne Marie Ungerer
- Jan Swanepoel
- Elmarie Swanepoel
- Rian Habig
- Nic Nel
- Lizette Swart

A special mention was made of:

- John Loftus – Club Trailer Donation
- Frans Glanvill – Rooftop tent for trailer donated
- Willie Grobler (Echo 4x4) – refurbish trailer

- Kobus Nolan Jnr. – Our new webmaster
- Annette Habig – Videos of Longhauls
- Jonathan & Jill Greengrass – Danvill Project
- Kevin Gibson – organising R5K donation Revlon

Certificates of Appreciation were given to the following companies for their support of the club:

Kempton Caravans
Giesel Nel
Bridgestone SA
Front Runner
Outdoor Warehouse
Echo 4x4
Phillip Viljoen Brokers
Kevin Bolton Consultants
Honeydew Toyota
Eco4x4Africa.com

The following members got a trophy and certificate for **5 year membership**:

Family Goodway
Family van der Reis (CPT)
Family de Witt
Family Gibson
Family Verwoerd
Family Goss-Ross
Family van der Vyver
Family Loftus
Family Orwin
family de Lange
Family Kreuter
Family Kruger

The following families got Attendance Certificates for over 40% attendance during the year:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| • Goodway Family | 90% |
| • Glanvill Family | 69% |
| • van der Merwe (K) Family | 66% |
| • vd Westhuizen Family | 59% |
| • Parsons Family | 52% |
| • Greengrass Family | 48% |
| • Collinge Family | 45% |
| • Marx Family | 45% |

And then, the main awards went to:

ENTHUSIASTS AWARD – Van der Merwe (Koos) Family

- **Floating Trophy + Mapsource S/W valued at R700**
- Sponsored by Kevin Bolton Consultants – GPS Specialists
- More than 50% + attendance for full years program
- 2 years or less membership
- **Noticeable increase** in enthusiasm and participation over period reviewed – solely my judgement
- Consider :



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- Amount of trips travelled during full year
- Club involvement and interest (voluntary) from family
- Club promotion and support
- Concerted support effort during year to attend events

4x4 OAC SUPPORT AWARD – vd Westhuizen (Morne) Family

- Prize Sponsored by Griesel Nel Incorporated – OW Voucher (R500)
- More than 50% + attendance for full years program
- Irrespective when joined
- Consider :
 - Family involved in supportive role
 - Behind the scenes support of club – Adding Value
 - Membership drive
 - Club promotion (own), organisation
 - Going the extra mile – helping on trails / guiding
 - Loyalty & Commitment to Club & Owner
 - Liked and respected by other members

And the big prize went to:

MEMBERS OF THE YEAR – Glanvill Family with 69% attendance and 57% attendance average since 2007

- Made the most impact in the club in areas of:
 - Above 60% attendance
 - Assistance, trip guiding / back door, leadership
 - Willingness, effort, involvement
 - Availability, ability, reliability
 - Popular with club members
 - Other added value and inputs tabled during the year
- Phillip Viljoen Insurance Brokers Floating Trophy
- Prize valued at R600 this year!

Then followed desserts, some club DVD's and a great social. It was the best year end award we have done ever and I thank all the members who took the effort to attend.

See you next year.....

Alan Goodway

Dear Alan, Charmaine, Keenan and Tamsin

I would like to add to what Alex and Geerts said on Saturday evening at our year opening bash. I would like to express my sincere admiration and appreciation to the Goodway family for a brilliantly organised and executed function (Sean really loved the surprise goodies!) and generally for the time, effort, sacrifices and at times frustration you must all endure individually and as a family to have established our club as one of the leaders in Gauteng and possibly South Africa. I admire what you all have done, do and will I know continue to do for the good of the 4x4 OAC – thanks guys we are proud of you and our club and you can always rely on our continued support.

Best regards,

Jono, Olivia and Sean Owen

Alan, en gesin

Net 'n woordjie van dank vir die lekker aand Saterdag. Ons het dit baie geniet en het lekker gekuier saam die ander lede. Weereens, in ons oë 'n groot sukses, soos ons al gewoon geraak het aan die funksies en events wat jy reël.

Dankie ook vir die erkenning wat ons gekry het, en ook die prys wat daarmee saamgaan. Dis altyd 'n plesier om te kan help waar en wanneer ons kan. 'n Dankie dan ook aan Griesel Nel, en Christo vir die borgskap. Dit is altyd baie handig en ons sal dit wys gebruik.

'n Mens kan amper nie glo hoe die klub onder jou vel inkruipe en deel raak van jou lewe nie. Sien asb ons erkenning vir attendance, nie as 'n effort van ons kant af nie, maar as waardering teenoor julle en as maatstaf van sukses vir jou en jou familie vir als wat julle doen om die klub so suksesvol te maak. Die klub events is altyd lekker en dis vir ons 'n plesier om deel te neem en om geassosieer te wees met die klub.

Baie dankie,
Morné & Natalie van der Merwe

HENNOPS 4x4 DAY TRIP

With a serious takeup of the invite (is it because it is so close?), the club was forced to split this into two trips and headed down at vastly different times to the local Hennops 4x4 Trail, on the R512 outside of Johannesburg. Well, what can I say. Hennops is Hennops, and a much overtraded trail, due to its closeness to the large cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Plenty of cross overs, rock climbing, erosion gulleys, quarry pit with inclines and declines, a river crossing, animals to be spotted, and a lovely (but due to popularity – overcrowded) braai area. The Zonkies (Zebra crossed with Donkeys, or other way around) was quiet amusing. The members drove the complete trail, waited for the second group to complete it, and gathered for a brunch at the booked lapa, which is great. And then the midday boomers arrived, with blaring radios (De la Rey of course), beers in hand as they park and plenty of noise.

Well, I suppose it was not that bad for a first time in the club history in 6 years, as it is close, the owner is club friendly, and the trail has a bit of everything to offer the driver, and you can still be home quiet early after having a great day out. Everybody enjoyed it.

Well, been there, done that...

Thanks for organising the event...it was a great day out.
Regards,
Pierre Rust

SERENDIPITY WEEKEND

8 families headed out for a weekend at the famous Serendipity Trail near Naboomspruit for a relaxing weekend, and hopefully some great trails to drive. Well as usual, work & traffic played havoc, and then the traffic department decided to create a helluva roadblock just after the Nylstroom turn off. Nevertheless, we all got there, even if it was as late as 9pm! On Friday night. Camp sites secured, organised, we hit the 'gesels' fire and spent a quiet evening chattering and getting to know some of the first timers better.

Saturday morning we waited for 1 day tripper to arrive, and we left the camp at 9.00am. An update on the trail is that the trail now runs in an anti clockwise fashion, the big rocky downhill

MARCH 2007

has been closed off due to serious erosion from rain last year. Pity, it was always a good tester right in the beginning. A new river section has been cut which finally comes out at the dam. Really pretty. The rocky loop at the dam is also now permanently closed.

We were saddened by the severe lack of water. After 6 years of visits, I have never seen the dam so low (virtually empty), and it goes without saying that the rivers were also virtually dry as a bone. Nevertheless, still a stunning trail – a comment passed by all the first time visitors.

We stopped in one of the dry river beds for lunch in some shade – it was well into the high 30's! Then we headed homewards and completed the trail and cracked our first cold one to cool the bodies down. The centre of attraction was once again the fire, and Geert and Kia shared some superb Australian wine with us. Everybody cooked and chatted, and finally we all turned in.

Sunday morning Morne and Alan led the convoy down the shorter trail, which was great fun, except no water. Then we returned, made a skottel brunch and packed up for home. Another great weekend with newer members and great friends.

Hi Alan

A small word of thanks for a memorable week-end. Your ability to run a well organised show is evident and the calibre of your members is beyond reproach. I look forward to joining you on future trips and hope the next one will be soon.

*Regards to you and your family
Mike Peila*

Thanks a million for a great weekend, we really enjoyed it with you. Hope to join you soon for another trip! Oops, forgot to take photos.

Regards
Jan & Elmarie Swanepoel

The Trading Post – Swop, Sell or Buy

BRAKHAH OFF-ROAD CARAVAN FOR SALE:

2004 Brakhah, sleeps 4, 2x105 amp batteries, 120w solar panel unit, 2 x70 liter built in water tanks, shower unit with hot water geyser, strengthened chassis, 80liter National Luna fridge. R90,000.00 or nearest cash offer.

Contact Phillip Viljoen - 27-12-542-5131

FRONT RUNNER ROOFRACK

I wish to sell my S2000 Fronrunner roof rack to fit Toyota Raider 1998 – 2005 models. R1250 o.n.c.o. Fitted with spade and hi lift jack carriers. Jonathan Owen. Send email to 4x4offroad@mweb.co.za

TRAILER FOR SALE (IN SWAZILAND)

Stainless steel body & chassis
"Howling Moon" rooftop tent c/w side room & kitchen awning

MARCH 2007

Full 6 person "Desert Wolf" kitchen c/w 2 plate gas stove
55 lit 12V "Minus 40" freezer
35 lit 12V Fridge
120 AH Battery
80 lit Water tank & external tap
9 kg Gas bottle in nose
Spare wheel
12V lights in trailer and tent
4 x Jerry cans (Petrol)
Wired for 220V with fitted "caravan plug" and extension
Fitted with overrun brakes
Registered in SA

R60 000 ONCO - Contact Robbie for further details (00268) 602 0310

LANDCRUISER 80 SERIES

1997 GX 4.2D – price R170 000 - colour White, Odometer: 275 000 km - Regularly serviced by Johan Meyer of JB's Auto.

Included:

Tyres 15 x 12.5 x 33 in Cooper S/T – 50% worn (including spare)
Extra rim & non matching additional spare tyre. Rear bumper / towbar with dual swing arm spare carriers. Additional 4x jerry can holder – can be mounted on swing arm in place of one spare. High lift jack points on rear bumper.
Long range fuel tank (gravity fed) above normal spare position – total 140 litres of fuel excl reserve. Range 950 – 1150 km depending on conditions.
OME suspension (50mm lift) including steering damper & castor correction kit.
Front bumper / bull bar with winch mount, high lift jacking points and high lift mounting bracket.
Dual battery system including deep cycle battery & solenoid switch, Heavy duty cables to rear load bay for fridge power point, 4x additional 12V power points and fluorescent light in rear. Power points 6x 12V (cigarette lighter) in cab. Inverter (220V x 600W) permanently fitted under passenger seat.

This vehicle has seen use as daily commuter as well as doing regular long distance trips as far as Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho . We have not once been let down ! It has picked up the inevitable scratches & nicks inside & outside but is still in good condition. Mechanically no expense was spared in maintaining the vehicle in tip top condition. Pictures can be mailed on request..

Karel de Haas
W 021 510 3400
C 082 443 8209

TYRES FOR SALE

4 x Yokohama Geloander AT+ II 265/70R16 with +- 70% tread left for R750 each (sold as a set only) ONCO...

Trevor Mathews

Office: +27 11 570 6199 / Mobile: +27 82 301 6534

Flat Wheel – Light Relief

A Banbury senior citizen drove his brand new BMW Z3 convertible out of the car salesroom. Taking off down the motorway, he floored it to 90 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing!" he thought as he flew down the highway, enjoying pushing the pedal to the metal even more.

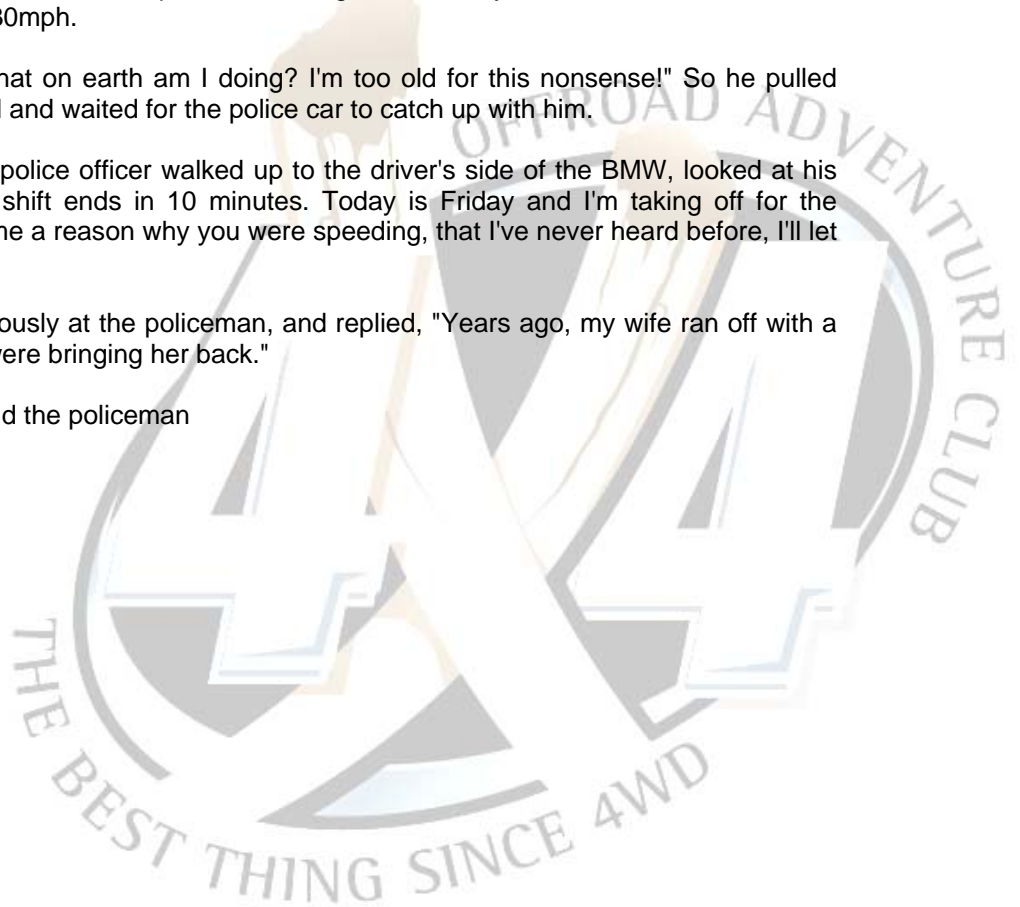
Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him - no problem!" thought the elderly nutcase as he floored it to 110mph, then 120, then 130mph.

Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

Pulling in behind him, the police officer walked up to the driver's side of the BMW, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. Today is Friday and I'm taking off for the weekend. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding, that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man, looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir," said the policeman



NEW SUPERMARKET

The new Supermarket near our house has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and smell the scent of fresh hay.

When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying.

The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn.

I don't buy toilet paper there any more.

THE SHORTEST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE

This is rather interesting ... Do you know why 2007 is special ?

- 2007 starts with Monday & ends also on Monday...
- 2007 has No Public Holidays on SUNDAYS...
- 2007 has the highest number of Saturdays & Sundays...

So enjoy the shortest working year in your life !!!

2007 - A YEAR WITH A DIFFERENCE

MOZHELP – A MUST HAVE EMERGENCY NUMBER

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

MOZHELP consists of a number of professional service providers who provide emergency medical services, lawyers, doctors, roadside and security assistance services in Mozambique.

For more details about MOZHELP emergency services in Mozambique please visit our website at www.mozhelp.co.za We have an extensive network of service providers in Mozambique that will be able to assist you in every possible emergency from medical emergency, legal, vehicle breakdown, and security.

Please consider this for your own safety and well-being. Thank you and have a safe trip.

Contact:

Reghardt Meyer
MOZHELP
CNR OF INBANI AND MARULA STREET,
MALELANE

TEL 013-7900265
FAX 013 7900427
CELL 0829400140

JANUARY 2007

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 high way (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, Eaststrand: 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)

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