



## Trails & Tribulations...

Hi there all you outdoor enthusiasts.

Well, the Easter school holiday is over, followed very rapidly by the extended 5 day long weekend and I hope that you all enjoyed the short breaks, as the rest of the year now lies ahead, holiday free (well almost). Thus we are all limited in taking those well deserved rests in between hectic work and social schedules. Maybe that's a good thing!

Much has happened in the last few weeks, and from my personal point of view, we have been up and about exploring places which deserve subsequent visits. But first, there have been some ructions in the industry at large.

A tourist being shot at in Mozambique was spread all over the pages of the press, ridiculing the lack of facilities and assistance and giving the country a god fearing 'crime haven' status. Wow, a bit over the top, as we have had how many shootings / incidents in our very own St Lucia / Kosi Bay area, and daily newspapers are filled with rape, murder, theft, corruption et al. Or is it a good story because it involved the 4x4 industry again – or is it just pure sensation. Indeed, says the owners of the resort where this happened. Their much unpublicised side of the story is included herein. My view – isolated incident – keep visiting Moz, it isn't any worse than downtown Joburg.

The new eNatis System has created chaos in the country, and any of you that have been trying to purchase a new vehicle or get services from a licensing department must really have been peeved. Well, my 5 year drivers licence renewal went off without a glitch. No queues, in and out in 11 minutes. How come? Well, at Centurion we have discovered, that if you make a booking at a fee of R150, you do not queue, walk straight into the centre, tick off your name, complete your form, have your eyes and fingers done, pay the booking fee, move to the licence payment counter, pay the renewal fees and exit. While many grumpy people still stay static in the queue. Why? Because it seems that this is the best kept secret in the world! Now for a mere R150 bucks, why queue. Hope this helps at least some of you.

Our breaking news on Berakah, the manufacturers of the famous offroad caravan, was indeed sad last month. We had built up a solid relationship in the industry with the owners based on excellent service, product and general involvement. We are sincerely disappointed by what has happened, and to see the potential demise of this product / enterprise, especially as many of the club members have bought this product over the years. There are various organisations which will now assist in servicing and repairs of this caravan for those owners out there. Contact me for details. Sad really, as one of our members paid a lot of money and still has no product.

Our travelling this last period saw us venture to the infamous Kruger National Park at the beginning of the month (April). Splendid indeed. Then we hit the local Bass Lake 4x4 Trail, enjoying a splendid day at the lake venue down south of Johannesburg at Henly on Klip. Excellent facilities if you book a boma at the waterside. The long weekend allowed us to venture into the Soutpansberg area, after having read a lot about it in the leading outdoor magazines the last few months. Hiring two professional guides, viz. Dave van Graan of Masazane Expeditions and Daan Opperman of Country Mountain Trips, who both put two exclusive and stunning 3 day trips together for the two convoys that went into the area (separate venues) for the 5 days. Their

knowledge, leadership and friendship over this period will certainly see us visit the area and their respective camp sites (Camp Africa and Camp Mangwela) again next year. Full trip reports under the club section of the newsletter.

The exciting Safari Centre sponsored program on Kyknet is getting rave reviews. If you have not seen it yet, check the article herein, and make the effort. As one of the leading 4x4 outfits in the country, with probably the longest track record, they continue to strive for excellence and customer satisfaction. Make sure you subscribe to their newsletter for ongoing activities, training and special events and product prices.

Probably one of the most informative meetings which affect you will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, in Centurion. The normal formal invite will follow soon, but why do I say this. Well, driver certification and regulation is a hot topic. Most of you are aware that the NOW organisation was formed last year, to become a spokes piece for the outdoor enthusiast with Government. Well things are progressing positively. Yes, we normally speak products etc. at the meeting, but this month we have the chairman of the AAWDC and NOW representative, Jakob Jordaan and Glyn Demmer, from the AAWDC / NOW / Nissan who are driving processes pertaining to this subject matter, as guest speakers at the meeting. So, not interested in shocks, venues, new products, but purely how the industry will be affecting you as a 4x4 / outdoor activity person, may just well be worth listening to. Make an effort. There will be some good news on the demise of the legendary Armstrong and the rise of Monroe on the shocks side, plus some other interesting topics including 29Mhz communications by the Chairman of the Land Rover Club – a well experienced Mike Ilsely.

Mothers Day is next Sunday –do not forget. Get mom that Garmin Nuvi and be assured that she travels safe. No, those OME shocks for your 4x4 do not count.

Our team did exceptionally well in the growing Bridgestone Challenge's GPS Challenge a few weeks back, taking 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places. Well done team. This weekend we had a daunting obstacle course covering inclines, declines, rock, sand, water, communication, blind driving et al at the Hennops 4x4 Trail. Once again the Laat Wiel TV crew were there and rumour has it that there will be something on the telly next Tuesday evening. I have not confirmed this, but keep a lookout.

Two of our members, who are also professional operators, are off on two exciting trips this month. Alex Smit is off again to the stunning Serengeti to show his clients how wonderful Africa is, and Koos Moorcraft is off on an exciting trip spanning from the Cunene River at the base of Angola, right to the top and back again, with one of the other members accompanying the group. He has promised me near daily updates and a pic or two via satellite to keep us in tune with progress. Exciting stuff.

Some interesting items on sale again, so have a preview. And thanks to those people who send us comments and the awesome funny (clean!) jokes to share with other. It makes one smile in a while.

So, enjoy this edition yet again and we hope to see you out there soon.

***Yours in 4x4ing.***  
***Alan Goodway (GP 1796)***  
***Editor (voluntary!)***  
***4x4offroad@mweb.co.za***

## **What did we do this month....**

There are many views on clubbing in the 4x4 industry, and this new section is aimed at quickly showing readers what family orientated clubs like ours typically get up to in during the preceding month. Maybe this will encourage more people to join organised structures (shop around, there are many on offer) and secure the future of the 4x4 industry.... More on our website - [www.4x4offroadclub.co.za](http://www.4x4offroadclub.co.za) - for full stories and photographic memories of our exciting and wide spread monthly events.

### *Kruger National Park*



*Members win Heat 3 – Bridgestone Challenge  
GPS Challenge*

### *Bass Lake 4x4 Trail - Gauteng*



*Bridgestone Challenge Heat 5*

### *Camp Africa - Soutpansberg*



*Camp Mangwela - Soutpansberg*

Detailed feedback on these events is also available under the THE DUSTY WAY section of this newsletter, where club feedback is given.

## **Shows, Training & Other Important Events and Dates**

### Training & Competitions:

- GPS Software Workshop – 11 May (Sorry FULL)
- GPS Training – 12-13 May (Sorry, FULL)
- **Fire Fighting for Camping Families – 9 June**
- **GPS Challenge (Public Event) – HEAT 1 GAUTENG – 19 May 2007 (refer [www.thegpschallenge.co.za](http://www.thegpschallenge.co.za) for registration and entry)**
- The GPS Challenge Finals – 27-28 October

Shows and Events:

- LA Sport Show – 05-06 May Pretoria
- Outdoor Adventure Experience – Kyalami – 25-27 May 2007 - [www.outdoorexpo.co.za](http://www.outdoorexpo.co.za)
- 4x4 ATV Show – 09-10 June Moot Trim Park, Pretoria
- Sumerhill 4x4 Family Day & Expo 2007 – Hazyview – 9 June 2007 (083 788 1119)
- African Boma 2007 Exhibition – 08-10 June, Pretoria - [www.africanboma.co.za](http://www.africanboma.co.za)
- DSTV Getaway Show – 24-26 August - [www.getawayshow.co.za](http://www.getawayshow.co.za)

**TOURS FOR 2007/2008 – PRESENTED BY [WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM](http://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](http://WWW.ECO4X4AFRICA.COM) and the SERENGETI TEAM - ALEX AND ALTA

**2007**

3. Serengeti Tour: 6 May – 6 June 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles -Full
4. Serengeti Tour: 24 Jun – 25 Jul 2007: Tanzania & Zanzibar – 7 vehicles Full
5. Lesotho Long Weekend: 9 – 12 Aug 2007: Lesotho – 10 vehicles
6. Bird view Tour: 25 Aug – 1 Sep 2007: Okavango Delta – 10 vehicles
7. Kalahari Tour: 22 – 29 Sep 2007: Botswana – 10 vehicles
8. Mozambique Tour: 17 – 26 Nov 2007: Inhambane – 5 vehicles
9. 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 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2007

Kind regards

Alex & Alta

0825706010 or [alex@eco4x4africa.com](mailto:alex@eco4x4africa.com)

January 2007

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

**BUY YOUR TRACKS 4 AFRICA CD ON A SPECIAL**

4-buy-4 Direct Store has just been assigned dealer status for this amazing product. Stock in Gauteng of version 7.02 is now available at a '**celebratory**' discounted price. Get your CD now while the first fresh batch is still available. All initial stock must go. Normal recommended retail price = R650.00 inc, but get your copy for less 10% now! This offer is ONLY for 14 days, then its back to standard retail.

The product costs a third of the commercial equivalent but cannot do routing but includes a lot more detail for off road use. Used by most serious offroaders and across border travellers.

***This is a once off – so act now.*** Excludes any shipping / postage costs. Available in Centurion.

Send an email to [4buy4direct@mweb.co.za](mailto:4buy4direct@mweb.co.za)

Also available – GME GX300 29/27 MHz Radios, Dragon 29 MHz radios, Aerials (magnetic & body mount), Namibian Maps & Books, Veronica Roodt Maps & Books and Book CD's covering Mammals, Snakes and Bush Survival. Enquire now.

#### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH...**

" The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page..." (Source : unknown)  
(Africa Guide Travel News)

#### **TRAVELLING TO SWAZILAND**

We have been advised by Johan Mostert from Bridgestone that the Road Tax went from R5 to R50 at the border posts. Please be aware of this.

#### **RENT FROM THE PROFESSIONALS - SAFARI CENTRE RENTALS!**

You can now also RENT 4X4 Trailers, Caravans and a variety of 4X4- and camping equipment from Safari Centre, at extremely competitive prices!

The following items can now be rented from Safari Centre:

- Conqueror Commander Off-Road Caravan.
- Conqueror Conquest Off-Road Trailer.
- Conqueror Supra Off-Road Trailer.
- Eezi-Awn 1.2m Rooftop Tent.
- Campmor 3m x 3m Canvas Dome Tent.
- Campmor 2.4m x 2.4m Canvas Dome Tent.
- Engel 40L Fridge/Freezer with bag.
- National Luna 74L Fridge/Freezer with bag.
- Airlift Jack.
- 1000W Inverter.
- 1000W Generator.
- 2000W Generator.
- 29Mhz Radio's.
- Satellite Phones.

Contact Safari Centre Menlyn at 012 348 3253 or send an email to [menlyn@safaricentre.co.za](mailto:menlyn@safaricentre.co.za) for more information!

#### **NATIONAL OFFROAD WORKGROUP UPDATE**

The National Off-Road workgroup advocates the introduction of a competency certificate for the drivers of All-Terrain vehicles who drive off-road on private and public property. The standard for such a competency certificate should be the Driver Training Unit Standard for All Terrain Vehicles which is currently in the development process with SAQA as published on the forum of the NOW. The standard is part of the skills development process which is legislated and has the approval of government, currently the standard has been posted on various websites and communicated to potential service providers for comment, once finalized it will also go through a mandatory public comment process before being legislated.

Currently a good deal of work on the unit standard has been done by NAAMSA, SANOTA, AMID and the Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs of SA (AAWDC).

**For more information please visit the National Off-Road Workgroup (NOW) at [www.now.org.za](http://www.now.org.za).**

***HOT OFF THE PRESS: Listen to Jakob Jordaan – Chairman of the AAWDC and Glynn Demmer from NOW / AAWDC / NISSAN re the Driver Training status and competency certification latest update at our interest meeting on 16 May 2006 in Centurion – All welcome. Invites to follow. IT DOES AFFECT YOU!!!! From the horses mouth!***

## **BIG ISSUE RE TOURISTS SHOT IN MOZAMBIQUE AT EASTER**

### **THE PRESS SAID.....**

#### **Nagmerrie in paradys**

MARIUS LOUW 09/04/2007 10:31:35 PM - (SA)

STRAND. – “Die oomblik toe ek sien die aanvallers se jong meeloper druk sy vingers in sy ore, het ek geweet hulle gaan ons skiet.” Só vertel ’n erg geskokte mnr. John Louw (40), ’n eiendomsfinansieringskonsultant van die Strand, nadat hy en ’n vriend Vrydag ’n koeëlreën buite die gewilde vakansieplek Ponta Malongane in die suide van Mosambiek oorleef het.

“Ek het net aan my vriend, Jacques (Gees) Groenewald, geskree: ‘O f—k Gees, hulle gaan ons skiet!’ “Die volgende oomblik reën die koeëls aan die binnekant van die bakkie vas.” “Ek, my vrou, Esperanza, en drie ander egpare met kinders het besluit om oor die Pase ’n paar dae in Mosambiek te gaan uitspan.” Hulle het noord van Sodwanabaai by Ponta Malongane tuisgegaan. Louw vertel hulle wou Vrydag omstreeks 11:00 weer ’n baaitjie met die naam Frederico, ’n entjie van die oord af, besoek. Sy vrou en kinders het op die nippertjie besluit om nie saam te ry nie.

“Ons was net so vier minute buite ons kamp, toe staan daar skielik twee gewapende mans voor die bakkie. Een het ’n kamoefleerpak aangehad, die ander ’n kortbroek en T-hemp. Saam met hulle was ’n seun van tussen 12 en 15 jaar oud.” Louw, ’n oud-dienspligtige wat in Angola diens gedoen het, het die gewere as AK47’s uitgeken. “Weens die toestand van die paaie ry ’n mens seker so 10 km/h. Ons het reg langs hulle tot stilstand gekom. Die eerste ding wat ek gesê het, was ‘vat alles – vat net wat julle wil.’” Een van die aanvallers het hom in Engels geantwoord. “Ons wil niks hê nie,” het hy volgens Louw gesê. “Dis toe dat ek sien die seun druk sy vingers in sy ore.” Louw het die pedaal van sy viertrekvoertuig plat ingetrap om te kon ontsnap.

“Die eerste koeël het die bakkie se instrumentpaneel flenters geskiet. Soos ons wou wegjaag, het die vensterraam van die bakkie die loop van die geweer skrams getref. Die tweede koeël is tussen my bene deur en het by die pedale vasgeslaan.

“Toe breek daar ’n totale chaos uit – dit was soos iets uit ’n aksieflik.” Louw het gesê hulle het onder die masjiengeweevuur uitgejaag. Meer as 14 koeëlgate is aan die bakkie se bakwerk getel.

Minute later het hulle ’n ander voertuig van hul geselskap teëgekom wat ’n paar minute agter hulle gery het. Dis toe wat hy pyn aan sy boud gevoel het. “Toe ek voel, was my hand vol bloed.” Hy is deur die bakkie se sitplek raakgeskiet. Die koeël het hom bo-aan die linkerboud getref en opgebreek.

X-strale wys hoe die stukke skrapnel van Louw se heuppotjie tot bo-aan die dybeen verspreid lê. Louw het gesê hy was verstom omdat die oorde in Mosambiek oor hoegenaamd geen noodhulptoerusting of enige ander mediese geriewe beskik nie.

Terug by die kamp is hy deur ’n paramedikus van Pretoria gestabiliseer wat as deel van ’n groep duikers daar was. “Sy het ’n drup opgesit. Al wat die oord gehad het, was ’n halfuur se suurstof, wat sy my ook toegedien het.”

Hulle het besluit om met polisiebegeleiding grens toe te ry. 'n Ambulans van Netcare 911 is uit Richardsbaai gestuur om hulle halfpad te ontmoet. Louw is sewe uur ná die skietery by die Bay-hospitaal in Richardsbaai opgeneem. "Daar is ek die eerste keer 'n pynstiller toegedien." Hy was twee dae in die hospitaal en is Sondag van Durban af Kaapstad toe gevlieg. Ná 'n nag in die Vergelegen MediClinic op Somerset-Wes het dokters besluit om nie die skrapnel te verwyder nie. "Dit is gevaarlik naby aan 'n slagaar en senuwees."

Hy is ontsteld omdat die oord glo "nie 'n vinger verroer het om te help nie" maar hom glo R2 500 vir die gebruik van die suurstof gevra het.

Daar was gister geen antwoord by die nommer in Nelspruit van die eienaars van die oord nie.

### **THE RESORT RESPONDED.....**

*Hi Alan*

*FYI here is the response from Malongane re the article published yesterday in the newspapers if anyone is querying it with you.*

*Jos - Land and Sea Travel & Dive Club*

Dear guests and supporter of the Ponta Malongane Holiday Resort.

We have received many queries with regards to the recent articles in "The Beeld", "Die Burger" and "Cape Argus" about AK-47 shooting over the Easter holidays and in response (as being named the resort under the scrutiny of the media) we would like to inform everyone on the situation.

A group of South African tourists from the Western Cape, who were on holiday at the Ponta Malongane Holiday Resort, decided to embark on an excursion outside the boundaries of Ponta Malongane, and explored areas further to the north of Ponta Malongane Holiday Resort. On their return from Ponta Mamoli, about 5 km from Ponta Malongane, the ambush incident occurred. Three unknown young men appeared out of the dense vegetation, one who was armed with an AK47. Unaware of the strange happenings the driver stopped, he asked the three men if there was a problem, but they just told them to turn-up the vehicle's windows and keep on driving. In relief they proceeded whereupon the armed individual suddenly opened fire on the vehicle. The motif remains a mystery as the majority of the shots were low, indicating an attempt to stop the vehicle.

After the gun was fired the three men fled the scene without any reward. The wounded middle aged man was treated and stabilized in the camp by the Ponta Malongane paramedic with the assistance of two other paramedics which were also on holiday at Ponta Malongane. The man was soon stabilized and then transported to South Africa, escorted by the Mozambique Police and Ponta Malongane security. We also would like to mention, that without the experience of the Ponta Malongane team and the holiday volunteers, the man could have died. Ponta Malongane supplied most of medical equipment and disposables to save the victims life.

So there are questions to ask yourself about objectiveness of our media/what's wrong with our media? Why even reputable newspapers downgrade themselves to "yellow press" in order to get "hot sensational material"? When for the first time over the last 4 years a single violent crime incident took place in the Southern Mozambique, it was enough for them to start the hysteria. Three of the most reputable newspapers placed the articles on their first pages, screaming about 'Bloody Easter' and 'holiday in hell', without any confirmation from either Mozambican or South African police or resort's management on the facts they published.

All conclusions of the above articles were based solely on the opinion of the victim, facts of one article were contradicting to the facts in another and it was said nowhere, that after 1 hour of the incident, Mozambican police had investigated the scene and set block posts on the main roads in the area. There was no mentioning of the fact that additional 50 policemen from Maputo were deployed by Mozambican government the next morning in order to catch the criminals and provide maximum security in the area.

Ponta Malongane has always been and still is a safe destination for thousands of South Africans who prefer to spend their holidays in quiet and crime free natural environment in the Southern Mozambique. Yes, crime free environment. The strict laws of Mozambique, which prosecute serious crime offenders unmercifully, created the environment, where it was too dangerous for criminals to commit any such serious crimes as murder, rape, armed robberies, etc. Don't get the message wrong, Mozambique is well known for the theft, so look after your cell phone, camera or your wallet, like everywhere else in the world, but it is, by far, much safer place than South Africa. The government of Mozambique, despite the corruption, tries its best to minimize criminal activities, realizing the importance of the tourism for their country. So, the single incidents of the violent crime do happen once in a while, but then they are carefully investigated, criminals are caught in most cases and are punished to set an example for the others not to commit crime ever again.

And last but not least, thousands cases of violent crime are reported in SA on the monthly basis without any attention of the press; in fact, it happens so often so it has sadly become a part of our daily routine. But the single incident in Mozambique has created such havoc in media, which snowballs on the daily basis. So, please, do not let the press, who hunts for the cheap sensations, influence your opinion about safety in Mozambique.

Best regards

The Ponta Malongane Team

Kirill Oussov

Director

Malonkwazi Adventures Mozambique

[kirill@malongane.co.za](mailto:kirill@malongane.co.za)

### **NOW IT'S 'SAFE IN THE ARMS OF MONROE'**

By Les Stephenson

"You're safe in the arms of Armstrong!" It's a brand of shock-absorbers that's been around in South Africa for more than 40 years but now owner Tenneco is shutting it down – so whose arms will you be in now?

"Armstrong is at the end of its life cycle," Tenneco's South African product manager Philip Lutz said during an explanatory presentation that was part of a media function at Gerotek, west of Pretoria. You'll now be cuddled by products from sister brand Monroe, for the past eight or nine years regarded as a premium brand from the Tenneco stable.

"It will no longer be a case of premium *and* expensive," Lutz added. "Prices will be either on par or slightly less expensive than competing brands and the Monroe shocks will come with a five-year warranty – the only one in the business – and superior technology.

"Monroe is the best product in the world. The brand uses the best gas technology with the latest research and development and that makes a big difference. We also use South African-sourced components."

Eight main products will be available through fitting specialists, starting with oil-filled twin-tubes (Monroe Original) and Original Gas. The latter, Lutz says, will be the most popular seller – it's

been developed for late-model and new cars and bakkies "and for African conditions" and is intended to compensate for older suspensions with four pre-mounting settings to suit the buyer.

If a setting change is required then the shocks can be removed, reset and replaced . From there, on ascending grades and prices, come:

Monroe Reflex: A grade for modern cars and all the latest imports that is fast-reacting and allows less drift than standard shocks.

Monroe Magnum: heavy-duty items for trucks and buses.

Gas Magnum: Designed for bakkies and 4x4's, though (Lutz says) still affordable yet more advanced than competing brands.

Monroe Adventure: A high-pressure monotube for 4x4's and SUV's; Lutz suggests owners discuss their requirements before fitting to avoid over or under-equipping their vehicle for the terrain and tasks it might have to cover and perform.

Monroe Rancho: This is getting into serious 4x4 territory and Lutz describes it as "a premium shock-absorber for 4x4 enthusiasts". It's a tri-wall equipped with nine-way, on-the-fly adjustment from the cab and can be matched with a wide range of shackles, bushings and sump plates for heavy off-road travel.

Monroe dealers will also be able to supply from an extensive catalogue of shock mounting-kits and underbody protection kits.

#### **'Key element'**

"Monroe is internationally recognised," parent Tenneco says, "as a technological leader in suspension - one only has to look at the launch of the continuous electronic suspension system, the Kinetic suspension system and the Reflex shock-absorber to see that Tenneco's research and development expertise and international experience has given Monroe its reputation for premium shock-absorbers."

Lutz added: "A key element of our strategy is to provide an entry-level Monroe shock to replace the Armstrong product so the new Monroe Gas range will include a price-competitive, but advanced technology, entry line and cover the full spectrum up to the premier range of the Reflex, Adventure and CES lines.

"Our coverage will include most locally available vehicles. We have been able to do this by using international Monroe designs and technology, importing many of the specialised components but still manufacturing locally using economies of scale and local components where possible to reduce costs."

Perhaps the "safe in the arms of..." should be replaced by a more modern slogan. How about "rock on!".

***HOT OFF THE PRESS: Listen to Philip Lutz at our interest meeting on 16 May 2006 in Centurion – All welcome. Invites to follow.***

#### **FOR THE BIRDERS....**

Birding booklets for the Limpopo Province. The booklets are an information resource for birders coming to the Limpopo province. Unfortunately we are out of stock, but are up dating and reprinting the booklets in August, they will cost about R75.00 or thereabouts.

Until then you can check out our website, [www.limpopobirding.com](http://www.limpopobirding.com) if you are heading back up this way. The Venda 4 x 4 route is detailed on the site.

Ben de Boer

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Member of IUCN - Switzerland - World Conservation Union

Bird call ring tones on your cell phone!  
Visit <http://www.birdlife.org.za> and look for ring tones under downloads for list of available calls.  
(Charged at R 10.00 per SMS – BirdLife proceeds go to bird conservation)  
SMS the keyword for the bird call you want to 38110 and the ring tone will be sent to your cell phone.

**LOOK UP INTO THE SKY AND SEE.....**

There is a humongous sunspot on the edge coming into view. Have a look at the SOHO site  
<http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime-images.html>

***Astronomy Open Evening:***

The next open evening will be the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, held at the play center at the Rhino & Lion Nature reserve. Meet at the Kiosk at 18h00. See Saturn at its best and the Southern Cross. Jupiter is visible for most of the night till dawn. Bring your binos.

Entrance to the park and evening is R65.00. The Kiosk is open for light snacks until 20h00.

For further information call the RLNR at 011 975 0106/9 or 083 227 3144. See  
[www.astronomy.co.za](http://www.astronomy.co.za)

Bill Hollenbach  
Astronomy© Est. 1983  
Astronomer @ Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve

***(Ed. This is really worth attending if the heavens are of interest to you, even as an amateur)***

**WE NEED A RELAXED COUPLE TO JOIN US IN BOTSWANA**

Hi Alan,  
My wife and I (and a couple from Zimbabwe) are planning to visit the Central Kalahari for about 3 weeks, starting probably around late July - August. We're going but were wondering whether anyone from the club would like to join us, or us join them? NO fancy fees or anything, just pay their own way.

**A bit about ourselves:** I'm Zimbabwean (Rhodesian, actually), Laura is German but lived in SA most of her life, we're in our late 50's, have travelled extensively all over Southern Africa, usually travel alone (1 vehicle) but wanted to team up with one or (max) two other vehicles for this trip. We have a Toyota Landcruiser double-cab with a full camper conversion, and we're totally self-sufficient when we hit the bush. I am a geologist (spent most of my life in the sticks) but working now in town, and Laura is a travel guide. We live in Pretoria and are English speaking (Laura obviously fluent in German).

We want to visit the Central Kalahari, then follow our noses to wherever they take us into Moremi, Savuti, Caprivi or even Mabuasehube, but we are completely flexible.

Best regards,  
TOM - 083 447 9442

**SAFARI CENTRE FACTS:**

- Calamari is a Squid or Chokka. These animals are caught when they gather to mate, and the female lays her eggs shortly afterwards.
- Sea Urchins and Sea Cucumbers are related. Both belong to the group *Phylum Echinodermata*. Sea Urchins have a hard, almost round Calcium Carbonate Shell with a spine, while Sea Cucumbers have an elongated body with a soft, leathery skin. Both have a radial symmetry and 5 pairs of tube-like feet!
- The Shortfin Mako Shark can grow as long as 3.9 metres and this exceptionally strong shark can swim as fast as 35 km's per hour. The shark can also jump as high as 6 meters clear of the water!
- Dried Shark Skin (Shagreen) was used in the past as sandpaper. In Germany and Japan, shark skin was used on the handles of swords for a non-slip grip!

**AFRICA MALARIA DAY**

Although this was received too late for publication, it is well worth observing as Malaria is a global emergency. It affects mainly the poor and children – one of whom dies every 30 seconds in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year, like every year, the malaria community will commemorate **Africa Malaria Day** on 25 April to show solidarity with African countries battling against this scourge. This day has been set aside by African governments committed to rolling back malaria and endemic countries all over Africa will be raising their voices in unison.

Many other parts of the world also suffer from malaria just like Africa: Thailand, the Amazon region, India, and Vietnam for instance. Africa Malaria Day is therefore an opportunity for **ALL** countries to reaffirm their commitment to reduce the burden of this disease.

This year's Africa Malaria Day will highlight the need to provide universal access to artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) and call for these treatments to reach those who need them as quickly as possible.

For more information please click on the <http://rbm.who.int/amd2007/>

**BACK AGAIN – NEWS FROM KALIZO LODGE IN THE CAPRIVI**

*To all the guests who asked us to let them know when the fish were going mad ...*

We trust that you all had a great Easter. Kalizo is once again in full swing even though the flood this year was the highest in recorded history for this time of the year. It rose to 7.28m - this being reached around the end of February. We suffered a fair amount of damage to structure, which we are busy replacing and repairing. The biggest damage was to the campsite where we lost 7 of our magnificent old trees. Unfortunately when the trees went, they took a lot of the soil in the campsite. Most of the grass in the grounds of Kalizo was killed, but we have already started planting grass madly and are busy building a new fabulous new campsite ablution block, as the flood has left the old one in poor condition.

The water level is back down to 5.60m, but our road is not yet open. We are hoping it will be functional once again in a couple of weeks. Meantime we are picking up our guests at Namweza Police camp, 15km from Kalizo, and bringing our guests in by boat. This way they get a very lovely boat ride to the lodge, through the floodplains at no extra cost.

**GREAT NEWS!!!** The Tiger are really running. We have not seen this much Tiger activity for years. The River is lined with Water Birds operating from the banks and the Tiger are operating from the water, so the poor little FRY that are coming from the flood plains in their billions are the only guys having a bad time.

As said before our road should be open within the next couple of weeks, as the water is dropping fast. Should you be interested in coming to the lodge, please feel free to email or call us. My cell phone only works sometimes, but an SMS always comes through, so give us a call. We really believe this year is going to be a record fishing year, and birding will be great as well. Once we can start to drive around, the mulapo's will be full of birds, and as soon as the sand banks start to appear the skimmers will be here in full force. The water lillies are really looking pretty, and they only come out once the water starts to drop.

Well folks thats all for now. Look forward to seeing you. Give us a call.

*Kalizo Waterlillies - From all of us at our stress free paradise on the banks of the mighty Zambezi river, Caprivi, Namibia - Wish you were here!*

Val, Dan, Rob,

Tel +264 (0) 66 - 686802/3

fax + 264(0) 66 - 686804

email [kalizo@mighty.co.za](mailto:kalizo@mighty.co.za) or [bruno@iway.na](mailto:bruno@iway.na)

web [www.kalizolodge.com](http://www.kalizolodge.com)

#### **NATIS FOUL-UP BLAMED FOR CAR SALES DROP**

Sales of new vehicles in South Africa fell for the third consecutive month in April, this time by 2002, the Naamsa has reported.

The 43 588 transactions was 4.4 percent down on the 45 590 sold in April 2006 and Naamsa attributed the drop to "the proliferation of public holidays and extended school holidays and particularly the eNATIS vehicle registration problems". Car sales were hit hardest – down 15.9 percent from April 2006's 30 827 to 25 912. VW and Toyota dominated the sector with 6109 and 6070 sales.

While potential buyers were tightening their belts commercial sales again improved across light commercials, bakkies and minibuses at 14 969, 2577 more than April last year. Aggregate new vehicle exports, at 13 289, were down 1542.

#### **CRASH-BAG PROBLEM WITH LATEST KIA SORENTO**

Kia has issued a recall notice on its right-hand drive Sorento models built between May 4, 2006 and the end of March, 2007 – and it involves units in South Africa. Kia Korea says electrical wiring to the crash-bag control unit has been transposed on RHD units which would result in the incorrect deployment of side-curtain bags.

Other bags in the cars are not affected. A spokesperson for Kia in South Africa says 61 units are being recalled here (the figure is 1561 in right-hand drive Britain) and their owners are asked to contact their nearest Kia dealer for remedial work to be carried out free of charge.

#### **ANGOLA ESTIMATES 30,000 DIE OF MALARIA EACH YEAR**

Source: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Date: 25/4/2007

LUANDA, April 24, 2007 (AFP) - Petroleum giant Esso is to spend three million euros (four million dollars) to help fund the battle against malaria in Angola, state-run media reported on Tuesday. The money will go towards financing ongoing programmes being run by the country's health ministry and coordinated by provisional authorities, the Angop news agency reported from the capital Luanda.

The announcement comes on the eve of African Malaria Day which is designed to raise awareness about a disease which kills about one million people a year worldwide, 90 percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organisation. The Angola government

launched an action plan last year to halve the number of cases of malaria by the end of the decade in a country where up to 30,000 people are thought to die of the disease every year.

**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](mailto: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 13 April 2007.**

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

**Closing date for bookings & deposit payment: Friday 20 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 the opportunity to relax and soak up the solitude of the timeless Kalahari ..."*

**Dates: Friday 10 August to Saturday 25 August 2007 (Cape Town to Cape Town).**

**Or meet us along our route, starting in Kimberley and ending in Upington.**

**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 is sure to 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 Wildreiness" – 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***

**SPOT THIS.....**

Alan

Satellite spotting – International space station (ISS) visible passes.... Wasn't visible last weekend but will be from the 5<sup>th</sup> onwards. Tuesday should be an excellent sighting with the moon waning at the moment....

Jonathan

See <http://www.heavens-above.com>

Search Period Start: 12:00 Friday, 04 May, 2007

Search Period End: 12:00 Monday, 14 May, 2007

Observer's Location: Boksburg ( 26.2170°S, 28.2500°E)

Local Time: Universal Coordinated Time -2 (GMT + 2:00)

Orbit: 330 x 345 km, 51.6° (Epoch 03 May)

Click on the date to get a star chart and other pass details.

Date	Mag	Starts			Max. <u>Altitude</u>			Ends		
		Time	<u>Alt.</u>	<u>Az.</u>	Time	<u>Alt.</u>	<u>Az.</u>	Time	<u>Alt.</u>	<u>Az.</u>
<a href="#">05 May</a>	2.7	04:29:41	11	ESE	04:29:41	11	ESE	04:29:59	10	ESE
<a href="#">05 May</a>	0.5	06:01:00	10	WSW	06:03:29	26	NW	06:05:58	10	N
<a href="#">06 May</a>	1.1	04:50:54	31	ENE	04:50:54	31	ENE	04:52:42	10	ENE
<a href="#">07 May</a>	1.0	05:12:09	22	N	05:12:09	22	N	05:13:35	10	NNE
<a href="#">08 May</a>	-0.1	18:38:18	10	NNW	18:40:54	34	NE	18:40:55	34	NE
<a href="#">09 May</a>	0.2	18:59:15	10	WNW	19:01:55	39	SW	19:01:55	39	SW
<a href="#">10 May</a>	2.4	19:22:11	10	WSW	19:22:46	11	SW	19:22:46	11	SW
<a href="#">11 May</a>	-0.0	18:06:21	10	WNW	18:09:05	46	SW	18:11:52	10	SSE
<a href="#">12 May</a>	2.1	18:28:52	10	WSW	18:30:13	13	SW	18:31:35	10	SSW

**TAKE OVER OUR BOTSWANA BOOKINGS!**

Good Morning Alan

We unfortunately can't take up our Botswana bookings in September. Should somebody be interested they are welcome to contact me for further information:

The booking details are:

We kindly request (The Botswana Reservation Office) that our deposit for the reservation Ref. 58222 be carried over to the following below camping reservations during September 2007 in the Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve:

Name of Park/Res.	Public Camping Ground	Day	Date In	Date Out
No. Nights	No. Persons			
Chobe Nat. Park	Ihaha Public Camping Site		Sunday	2
4	2			
Chobe Nat. Park	Savuti Public Camp Site		Friday	7
2	2			9
Moremi Game Res.	North Gate Camp		Sunday	9
2	2			11
Moremi Game Res.	Xakanaxa Camp		Tuesday	11
2	2			13

The deposit paid was P480. I trust this can assist a Botswana enthusiast.

Heart-sore greetings

BuL Lombard - 082 883 3606

**“SAFARI 4X4 ROETES” ELKE WOENSDAG AAND OP KYKNET!**

André de Villiers, eienaar van Safari Centre 4X4 winkels, is die aanbieder van ‘n splinternuwe, 13 episode 4X4 reeks, slegs op KykNET! “Safari 4X4 Roetes” het reeds begin op Woensdag, 04 April 2007, om 19:00. Indien u om een of ander rede ‘n episode mis, kan u ook na die heruitsendings kyk op Donderdae om 14:00, Vrydae om 09:30 en 00:30, sowel as Saterdag om 16:30!

Hierdie opwindende nuwe reeks fokus op 4X4 bestuurstegnieke, handige 4x4 wenke, 4X4 toerusting en enige iets anders wat ‘n 4X4 eienaar moet weet! Die roetes wat gery word, is strategies gekies om ‘n wye verskeidenheid van “off road” toestande/hindernisse in te sluit en is landswyd versprei!

U kan ook uitsien na ‘n fantastiese kykers kompetisie, waarby een gelukkige ingeskrewe sal wegstap met ‘n Conqueror Compact Sleepwa ter waarde van R50 000-00! Die hoofborge van die reeks is Safari Centre 4X4 winkels, Conqueror Sleepwaens en Control Instruments (Warn produkte).

Alle “Safari 4X4 Roetes” aanhangers sal ‘n DVD kan aankoop van elke episode, aan die einde van die reeks. Die DVD sal addisionele 4X4 wenke, en inligting rakende 4X4 toerusting bevat, sowel as die onvoorsiene gebeurtenisse wat op kamera vasgelê is! Die DVD sal beskikbaar wees by Safari Centre en verskeie ander winkels landswyd!

Laaste, maar nie die minste! Kykers word uitgenooi om enige 4x4 verwante vrae te stuur na [4X4roetes@safaricentre.co.za](mailto:4X4roetes@safaricentre.co.za). André sal persoonlik die eposse beantwoord, waar nodig.

***MIS DIT EN MIS UIT! DAGBOEK NOU KYKNET, ELKE WOENSDAGAAND OM 7 UUR!***

**CAN YOU PEDAL A MOUNTAIN BIKE?**

The Big Induna Hazyview Mazda MTB Marathon & Half Marathon - 16 June 2007. 75 km, 45 km, 10 km - It is not just a race - it is a Mountain Bike Lifestyle Celebration! "Try it once, you'll ride it twice"

This year we are proud to host the National Championships at the BIG INDUNA race. Does this mean that only professionals can ride the race? NO NO NO! The race is for everybody! The course will include alot of single tracks, jeep tracks and quad trails, the same as last year, and will be enjoyable for beginners and professionals(some will just enjoy it a little bit longer than others!).

With the help of the Victor Family and MANCHELL we have created world class Downhill and Duel Eliminator courses, naturally adding the following competitions to the event: Downhill Racing, Dirt Jumping and Duel Eliminator.

Warm winter climate, great accommodation, superb restaurants and a world class course make up for an outstanding Mountain Bike Weekend - visit our website for more information on the race, accommodation, restaurants and things to do. (16 June is a public holiday - book accommodation well in advance! Call Big 5 Country Tourism on 013-737 8191))

Free cycling shirts for first 500 entries!

- Venue : Induna Adventures, Hazyview
- Starting Time : 8:00
- Entry forms : [www.indunaadventures.com](http://www.indunaadventures.com)
- Online Registration : [www.cyclelab.com](http://www.cyclelab.com)
- Pre-entry & Registration Friday at Induna Adventures up to 8 pm

- Line entries Saturday morning at Induna Adventures from 6 am to 7 am

For more info contact: Jaco Lubbe 082 429 0679 / Induna Adventures 013 737 8308 [info@indunaadventures.com](mailto:info@indunaadventures.com) . Visit our website [www.indunaadventures.com](http://www.indunaadventures.com) for accommodation specials on the race weekend or book with Big 5 Country Tourism - tel 013-737 8191, website [www.big5country.co.za](http://www.big5country.co.za)

### **NO JOBS FOR THETA STUDENTS – CAN YOU HELP!**

SHOCKING 80% of people who have completed learnerships through the Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (Theta) have been unable to find jobs. This statistic was revealed during a Theta briefing with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism recently.

The private sector is largely unimpressed with the quality of graduates and blames the institutions delivering the training for not equipping students with the necessary skills. Anitha Soni, ceo of the Tourism Knowledge Group, says that learnerships have been "supply-side" driven, with limited recognition for market needs. "Often those engaged in delivering learnerships are more interested in the numbers they churn out than the reality of the needs of the job market," she says.

The Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) hosted a workshop earlier this month where the issue of skills development for the tourism industry was tabled. Possible solutions suggested at the workshop were the development of an exit strategy for learners, as well as the suggestion that Theta should subsidise learners at establishments to ensure they received practical training.

### **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](http://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](mailto:info@citrusdal.info)

**HOOFBORG - CITRUSDAL CELLARS**, Tel: 022 921 2233, [www.citrusdalcellars.co.za](http://www.citrusdalcellars.co.za)

### **LAKE ST LUCIA**

After being closed for five years, the mouth of Lake St Lucia was breached by the effects of a cyclone in the Mozambique Channel. Sea water started to flow strongly into the nearly dry lake. A second weather event opened the mouth even further and the lake started to fill as the sea water flowed north. At the same time heavy rains had fallen and a strong flow of fresh water started to enter the north of the lake from the Mkuzi River and the Muzi Swamps.

The lake has filled to the extent that the north and south basins have joined up and, though very shallow, visitors are again able to launch their boats on the lake. A lot of small fish are being seen and there is a great deal of bird life on the lake. While all of this natural activity has been taking place, there have been some changes to controls at the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. With effect from the 1st April 2007, the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park Authority has assumed control over all access gates into the GSLWP.

The management of certain gates has been outsourced to a private company whilst others are still be managed by KZN Wildlife on behalf of the Authority. This will NOT affect Rhino Club Gold Card access in any way.

### **HONEYDEW MAZES PROSPER. HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?**

What started in February '05 with a leap of faith and Africa's first Maize Maze has grown in leaps and bounds into a recreational venue with an array of challenging outdoor mazes, puzzles and most recently indoor table-top games. The business has four distinct but complementary facets - family adventure; kids parties; corporate fun days and school outings.

Our third annual Maize Maze will open at the end of January '07 and next year's complex design is that of a giant dinosaur and the in-field game will be all about adventure, discovery and the ancient civilisations. With all the rain we are 'enjoying' at present the newly planted mealie field is growing quickly. Every year we set out to provide a completely different and superior experience and we are having great fun putting together the final material for Dinomaze 2007. Please remember to diarise to visit us during February, March and/or April '07 for this unique event - we are already taking bookings for schools and kids parties

Phone : 011-794 5818

Mobile : 073-795 2174

### **SELF BESTUUR 4x4 SAFARIS**

Alan

Dankie vir jou gereelde nuusbrief. Tafelberg 4x4 klub onderneem 'n SELFBESTUUR 4X4 SAFARI na BOTSWANA vanaf 30 Junie tot 15 Julie 2007. Ons benodig nog 2 voertuie om die toer van 7 voertuie vol te maak. Ons besoek CHOBE, VIC FALLS en MOREMI (OKAVANGO DELTA). Die prys kan nie geklop word nie en sluit park-, kamp- en grensfooie in asook 2 etes per dag. Belangstellende moet asb vir my kontak vir volledige reisplan [peet@offventure.co.za](mailto:peet@offventure.co.za)

Peet Hendriks

GP2472 - 4X4 TOUR GUIDE

Tel: 021 - 931 8091

Sel: 072 353 2495

Faks: 0866 788 075

### **STEVE'S ADDS ACTION SSANGYONG'S ACTYON BAKKIE**

Korean 4x4 automaker SsangYong recently launched a funky turbodiesel, the Actyon Sports bakkie, for folk who prefer something different in their garage and now Steve's Auto Clinic has the goods to give it more performance.

The bakkie's standard two-litre turbodiesel engine produces a healthy 104kW at 4000rpm and 310Nm at 2400 but has to haul almost two tons of metal (not to mention passengers) and suffers from the dreaded (particularly up on the Reef) turbo lag.

Moving to the coast, where the air is oxygen-rich and cars go better, is probably not an option for you so Steve's has a R3750 "chip tuning" upgrade for the trendy truck that chops almost three seconds off the tough "40-80km/h in fifth gear" test.

The more realistic "80-120km/h in fifth" test also show a substantially improvement; in fact the benefits are spread right across the Actyon's rev range, the tuning house claims. "This vehicle will certainly be better off-road and when towing," a Steve's spokesman said. "The cherry on the top is fuel consumption – given the same road and conditions, the tuned Actyon should use less diesel at any given speed.

"You'll have a real outdoor vehicle that will be happy whatever the road might throw at it." Here's how the acceleration times pan out (standard figure first) for the SAC SsangYong Actyon Sports:

**Sprint times**

0-60km/h - 5.63 / 5.47sec  
 0-80km/h - 9.43 / 9.01sec  
 0-100km/h: - 14.63 / 13.92sec  
 0-120km/h - 22.20 / 20.71sec

**Standing kilometre:**

36.25sec (138.2km/h) / 35.35sec (141.5km/h)

**Flexibility:**

40-80km/h (4th) 9.56 / 8.92sec  
 40-80km/h (5th) 19.77 / 16.92sec

60-100km/h (4th) 9.48 / 8.89sec  
 60-100km/h (5th) 12.70 / 11.79sec

80-120km/h (4th) 12.63 / 11.75sec  
 80-120km/h (5th) 14.74 / 12.77sec

**Top speed:**

Standard: 152.97km/h (4100rpm in 5th)  
 SAC: 155.09km/h (4200rpm in 5th)

Your nearest Steve's Auto Clinic branch should be in your local phone book.

**NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK**

Gary and Lynette Swemmer are the proud new owners of LA Sport Menlyn. This dynamic young duo has a passion for the 4x4 and outdoor lifestyle, taking it to the extreme on their honeymoon way back in the day. Gary, a qualified mechanic, grew up in the motor sport industry and drove in the Off-Road Rally for the Volkswagen team. After finishing his apprenticeship with BMW in 1993 he started his own Dyna tuning business before joining the family business.

Customers to Gary's Workshop have come to expect good service and value for money from its owner, and Gary & Lynette intend to bring this philosophy of theirs to LA Sport Menlyn. In the off-road racing industry Gary's learned that quality workmanship can mean the difference between life and death, and with this knowledge he aims to bring customers the quality service they're entitled to and have come to expect from the leaders in the 4x4 industry.

Visit LA Sport Menlyn on the corner of Bali Avenue and Lois Street in Menlyn, or contact them on 012 348 8058.

**LATEST WRANGLERS SET RIDE-HEIGHT RECORD**

It's 70 years, the records say, since the first human climbed the world's highest volcano, Ojos del Salado in Chile. Now a team has driven to the lip, 6646m up in the sky, in Jeep Wrangler. That's more than six times the height of Cape Town's Table Mountain; the achievement has been certified by Guinness World Records and, as a "first", cannot be beaten. Others went before to try to create the world's highest car park but it was a Jeep Wrangler Unlimited that earned the laurels.

The Wranglers and a team from Extrem Events (Germany), led by Mattias Jeschke, need five

Supported by:

tough days to get from the base of the volcano in the Chilean Andes to the highest point that a four-wheeled vehicle has travelled

The adventurers endured hurricane-strength winds, temperatures that plummeted to -30 and very thin air as the Jeeps crossed glaciers, fissured rock and volcanic sand. The last stretch of the climb was the most gruelling, the team reported. Both Wranglers had to cross a glacier, parts of which were so smooth that walking required spiked boots.

At the far end was the glacier field, a fissured area of ice strewn with razor-sharp snow ridges. "It was here that the vehicle's 3.8-litre V6 and Goodyear's MT/R tyres proved their capability," a spokesman said. "They made the Wranglers the first vehicles to cross the Ojos del Salado glacier."

The team reached its initial goal, 6500m, just beyond the glacier, but continued until there was nowhere left to drive. The Unlimited's, Jeep says, were standard Rubicon models but fitted with the Goodyear tyres, winches and electronic altitude meters.

Their four-door, five-seat, open-air design, the maker says, gives plenty of comfort, space, versatility and open-air options than the all-new Wrangler. The Unlimited is the first Wrangler with five seats and has the most cargo space with "class-leading off-road capability and everyday practicality".

"It has expanded the Jeep experience and core values to a broader range of customers who always wanted a Wrangler but also needed space and versatility," Jeep said. Two engines are available - an all-new 2.8-litre, common-rail turbodiesel and a new 3.8-litre V6 petrol engine - and the Unlimited comes with solid axles, removable doors, a foldable windscreen and removable and convertible tops.

The Jeep Wrangler and Wrangler Unlimited will be available in South Africa in May, 2007 and will be sold with a three-year or 100 000km warranty and a choice of maintenance plans.

#### **MOZ ACCOMODATION AVAILABLE**

As we all aware that Mozambique is on high demand during high season. We hereby wish to offer some accommodation still available during the June/ July school holidays and the Christmas and new year.

Should you wish to visit Mozambique during this period is already time to make your reservation. Most of the lodges are already fully booked but we can offer you the following:

#### Montel do Mar:

2 x 4 bed normal cabana from 23/ 06 - 01/07/07

1 x 4 bed sea facing cabana from 23/12 - 02/01/08

#### Ponta Malongane:

Camping for 8 people from 02/ 07 - 10/07/07

Camping for 6 people from 02/ 07 - 10/07/07

#### Nhambavale lodge:

3 x 2 bed chalet from 23/ 06 - 01/07/07

Camping for 10 people from 02/07 - 10/07/07

#### Barra Lodge:

2 x 2 bed chalet from 02/ 07 - 09/07/07

Supported by:

Pomene Lodge:  
1 x 8 bed chalet from 27/ 12 - 02/12/08

Morrongulo:  
2 x 4 bed casita from 23/ 06 - 01/07/07  
Camping for 8 people from 23/12 - 02/01/08

Should you wish to have any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks

Sheila Victor (MAS team) - [mozaccm@netactive.co.za](mailto:mozaccm@netactive.co.za)

### **NEW MAC-MAC SUMMIT 4x4 ROUTES ANNOUNCED**

**Contact:** Tel.: (013) 764-2376 (office hours) Fax: (013) 764-3124.

**E-Mail:** [macmacquad@mweb.co.za](mailto:macmacquad@mweb.co.za)

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

**Grading:** 1 – 3: Easy driving along well-maintained tracks and some tar link roads.

**Accommodation:** Either self-catering houses or camping. (Not included in 1-day trail.)

**Catering:** Breakfast and dinner optional (not included in the rates). Otherwise it is self-catering.

**Guides:** Approved and registered guides.

**Distance:** Distances may vary on the trails depending on harvesting, trail and weather conditions, the approximate distance per day is 100km

**Fuel:** Please ensure your tank is full, and spare tyre (s) are pumped and in good condition.

**GPS way points:** **S 24 59.491 E 030 48.727** (Mac Mac Forest Retreat)

#### **1-Day Trail:**

For the 1-Day Trail we either do day 1 or day 2 of the 2-Day Trail. (See 2-Day Trail)

**Rates for the 1-Day Trail:** 1 vehicle only: R700.00 per vehicle., 2 vehicles: R550.00 per vehicle.  
3 vehicles: R450.00 per vehicle. 4 and more vehicles: R380.00 per vehicle

(These rates includes up to 3 people / vehicle and do not include accommodation or camping)

**Catering:** Bring your own picnic basket for lunch. **Please note:** An extra R60.00 per person is charged if you are more than 3 people / vehicle. Children under age 7 are free of charge.

#### **2-Day Trail (Sleep over 2 nights):**

##### **Day of arrival:**

Sleep over at either Mac Mac Forest Retreat or In De Diepte Hide-away. You either sleep in well equipped forestry houses or camp. (See the rates for the different options)

##### **Day 1:**

After coffee and rusks at 08H00 and a detail briefing, we leave for the Ceylon plantation. We ascend up the mountain to enjoy spectacular views over the Sabie area. We then go past the Stables hut (on Fanie Botha hiking trail) towards Hartbeestvlakte. Hartbeestvlakte is the beginning of the Blyde River catchment area. This conservation area consist mainly of grassland plains with stunning scenery and spectacular views over the surrounding mountains. The area is part of the Oribi Reserve and the following fauna occurs: Eland, Blesbuck, Oribi, Duiker, Grey Rhebuck, Klipspringer, Leopard, Lynx etc. We stop for lunch close to Mount Anderson (2277masl.). Bring your own picnic basket. Thereafter we descend and return to Mac Mac or In De Diepte via the Grootfontein plantation.

**Total distance travelled for the day ± 90 km. We finish around 1 - 3 pm.**

##### **Day 2 (Day of Departure):**

After coffee and rusks we leave for Mauchsberg (2115masl.) via Burgers Pass. This route includes plantations, patches of indiginous forests, river crossings and stunning views. From the top of Mauchberg we enjoy another spectacular view over the Escarpment area. After Mauchsberg we go down to Christmas Pools. From Christmas Pools we take the old Burgers

Pass road and follow the Blyde River to the town of Pilgrim's Rest. After lunch at a restaurant in Pilgrim's Rest (not included in price), we bid each other farewell.

**Total km's for the day: 80 km. We arrive in Pilgrims Rest around 1 – 2 pm.**

**Rates for the 2-Day Trail:**

**Accommodation:** Stay in self-catering forestry houses: R1100-00 per vehicle for two days including accommodation for **three** people for two days, with additional passengers at R60-00 each per day. **(This option is not available over peak periods and long weekends – only camping option then available.)**

**Camping:** Self-catering 2-Day camping Trail (bring your own camping equipment): R810.00 per vehicle for two days including camping for **three** People for two days, with additional passengers at R60-00 each per day. Children under 7 stay for free.

**Other options (extended packages)**

If you have in mind to explore more of the "off the beaten track" beauty of the Mpumalanga Escarpment and Blyde River Canyon areas, then please contact us with your ideas. We will then tailor make a package for you.

**Examples of added routes:**

A Option: We depart from Mac Mac or In De Diepte on the Burger's Pass road towards Pilgrim's Rest. From Pilgrim's Rest we take the scenic Vaalhoek road towards Bourke's Luck potholes. We then follow the tarred road towards the London plantation. Here we turn off the main road and visit the magnificent, but little known Poe waterfalls. From here we travel through a very scenic valley back to the tarred road. We pass Wonderview and God's window on our way to Graskop.

**Total km's for the day: 120km.**

Another Option: After packing we leave for Graskop. In Graskop we spend a short while to stock up and refuel. We then leave for Kowyn's pass (named after the tribal leader Koweni who helped the trekkers with a route down to Delagoa Bay). Shortly afterwards we turn off and travel along the foot of the Escarpment towards the Wilgeboom, Violet bank, Onverwacht and Welgevonden plantations. We follow this route all the way to the bottom of the Blyde River Canyon. We have lunch (your own picnic basket) on the banks of the Blyde River. The overwhelming magnificence of the surrounding canyon is awe-inspiring. We travel towards Klaserie where we bid each other farewell.

**Total km's for the day: 130km.**

We can extend this option: After lunch on the banks of the Blyde river, we travel to a private game lodge to overnight. After breakfast the next morning, we travel to the top of Mariepskop (named after Chief Mariep of the Pedi tribe who built his stronghold on top of the mountain). Viewing the magnificent rock structures and rare endemic flora of the area is an exclusive opportunity and the view is one never to be forgotten. We then descend the mountain and travel towards a restaurant for lunch and a farewell drink.

**Total km's for the day: 80km.**

**KRUGER CUTS WATER DURING CRISIS TIME**

KRUGER National Park (KNP) management is introducing strict water restrictions to preserve the park's river systems. As from April 23, the amount of water used for irrigation of the KNP camps, hostels, ranger posts, staff villages, concession lodges, sports fields and entrance gates will be halved.

Freek Venter, KNP Conservation Services head of department, said: "We realise that the restrictions will have a noticeable effect on tourist facilities as the lawns will not be as lush and

green as they have been for the last few years, but we need to start conserving the little water that we have.”

**POLES GO SOLO AROUND AFRICA IN A PANDA 4x4 - [www.motoring.co.za](http://www.motoring.co.za)**

Readers in Europe and West African countries – including Namibia – might have seen, perhaps chuckled at, a tiny Fiat Panda covered in sponsors' stickers and mud but buzzing generally south in areas where even Dakar racers might fear to put tread.

Had you seen it, the young people in the cab were Jolanta Czupik and Dominik Stoklosa, two young Poles who have taken it upon themselves and their tiny Fiat Panda Cross 1.3 Multijet turbodiesel with its miniature wheels and rudimentary (but standard) all-wheel drive to drive anti-clockwise around Africa in six months.

That's a roughly 70 000km journey through some of the most inhospitable – but almost most beautiful – terrain on earth, often without metalled roads and frequently without suitable diesel fuel. And, unlike most African odysseys, Jolanta and Dominik are travelling solo – no heavy-duty back-up such as accompanied the recent South African Toyota and Mini safaris.

And no satnav – "Just good maps," petite Jolanta grinned, "and Dominik has excellent intuition." Though they did come short: after 311km down an appalling, slippery, muddy road they came up against an actual brick wall where Gabon was barring entry due to yet another African conflict – so another 300km back and find another route.

The result: a 1000km detour – but there was still Angola to come...If they make it – hey, wait up, there's no "if" for these two – they believe they will be the first to circle Africa in a private car. That's one for the guys from Guinness.

So, the first three months have been tough and a brief layover in Cape Town for rest and recreation, not to mention a touch of civilisation and a well-earned service for the Panda, were welcome and it was there that motoring.co.za caught up with them over breakfast at the Town House hotel in the city centre.

The two adventurers – no, there's no close relationship here; regard them as long-distance drivers who gave up their big-company careers in Poland to work together on a project – have kept careful data about their journey so far:

Distance travelled: 31 180km.  
Average speed: 67km/h.  
Average daily distance: 421km  
Days travelled: 74.  
Actual driving time: 466 hours.  
Fuel used: 1831 litres.  
Average fuel consumption: 5.8 litres/100km.

Kinda tops anything your average South African off-roader might manage, hey? And most of the time they were living off dried foods and pasta, the meagre boot of the little Panda packed instead with fuel containers, minimum spare parts and a tool kit – that last used only once when Fiat Poland had to fly in a starter motor to replace the original that burned out after being soaked during a particularly rough tow along a flooded mud road.

Here's how some of their journey went:

**Mauritania:** They covered 650km on desert sand.

**Nigeria:** Serious along-the-road corruption – perhaps €100 a time - but at least the fuel was good.

**Gabon (Libreville):** It's the African equivalent of Kuwait for oil but the only fuel they could find for retail sale was on the black market.

**Angola:** After years of civil war, the country has no roads left outside of towns – and precious few in them either.

"This was where we nearly gave up," Jolanta said. "I was in tears with frustration at the state of the roads, which almost made us give up our journey but, in the end, the beautiful scenery made up for it."

The journey through Angola was also the only time the two had a serious disagreement: four days of no-speak only ended when they exited the country. "We drove through Angola for 14-17 hours a day at an average speed of about 10 or 15km/h, sleeping in a tent along the road for six days because we only had a seven-day transit visa," Dominick said.

"We covered 2316km in a country without roads." Good heavens, where *does* all that oil, gold and diamonds money go to?

**Who did the driving?** Mostly Dominik; Jolanta took care of the navigation, data collection and photography.

**Where did they get the most help?** In the poorest countries along their route. Sometimes they prayed, if they were stuck, for help to come along and, always, it did with friendly smiles, willing muscle and a tow out of trouble.

So far they have driven through 14 countries, including Germany, France and Spain, across the Mediterranean by ferry to Morocco then through, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Angola and Namibia and, of course, South Africa.

**'Joburg? No, too dangerous...'**

They left the sanctuary of the Mother City on Sunday, heading for Botswana, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Russia and the Ukraine, before arriving back in Poland.

We wish them well on their journey and hope to carry future stories on their progress, but there was one final question as the breakfast dishes were cleared...

"Not going to Johannesburg?" I asked. "No," said Dominik, suddenly looking worried. "We understand it is far too dangerous..." Now there's something for our self-opinionated ANC panjandrams to get between their well-padded ears. Jozi is more dangerous than the minefields of Angola, the roving gunmen of Nigeria, the burning and limitless sands of the Sahara and the metres-deep potholes of central African "highways".

**SUPPORT BOYS & GIRLS TOWN WITH YOUR 4x4**  
**GIRLS & BOYS TOWN 4x4 TREASURE HUNT AND FAMILY FUN DAY 3 JUNE 2007**

Girls & Boys Town South Africa, which is based on non-denominational principles was founded in 1958 with the establishment of Boys Town Magaliesburg, Gauteng. Today, the organisation operates facilities in the main centres of South Africa. The residential programmes provide care and development for youth who range from the disadvantaged, deprived, abused and neglected to those regarded as being difficult to manage and 'at risk.'

The unique feature of the Girls & Boys Town movement in South Africa is the 'peer-group' (self-government) system where youth are significantly involved in decision-making concerning their own affairs. Youngsters govern themselves under the guidance of adults. Promotion and

progress are determined by the youth's maturity of thought, ability to master the social skills programme and readiness to accept responsibility within the Girls & Boys Town society.

Today, Girls & Boys Town South Africa has a proud record of success spanning almost 50 years and is regarded by professionals and the general public as the leader in helping youth where others have given up hope.

Girls & Boys Town South Africa depends on its ability to raise funds. One of its key annual fund raising activities is a family 4x4 Treasure Hunt in the Magaliesburg Mountains, starting and finishing from the Girls & Boys Town playing field.

Entry Fee: R200 per vehicle – all proceeds go to Girls and Boys Town SA.

**If you register before the 10th May, this is reduced to R150.**

The event will be promoted by Radio Sonder Grense's Francois Roussow on his weekly show and is guaranteed to be a great day out. This year, the event will attract approximately 200 vehicles to a well planned and more challenging 15 km course than in previous years, giving drivers and their vehicles the chance to test their capabilities against a series of obstacles as well as testing the mental agility of the occupants by completing a number of questions about the route.

**Registration opens from 09.00. The event commences at circa 10am**

To pre register (and get the early registration discount), please complete the form below and fax it to either of the numbers indicated with proof of payment.

**Bank Details:**

If you require any further details regarding the event, please contact one of us and we will gladly assist.

Graeme Mackenzie Tel: 083 647 3944 Fax: 011 327 4545

Anthony Gardner Tel: 082 652 0910 Fax: 011 626 3674

**TEMBE ELEPHANT PARK**

Tembe Elephant Park, the home of the last remaining original elephant population in KwaZulu-Natal, is an area of thick sand forest, interspersed with palm dotted grassland, wetlands and perennial pans. Located within a transition area between tropical and sub-tropical forms, the reserve is home to a great diversity of vegetation which provides a multitude of habitats for a spectacular variety of animals and birds.

This 190 square mile reserve on the South Africa Mozambique border is a big five reserve with what are reputed to be the largest African elephants in the world. The accommodation is run by a concessionaire and consists of luxury tented accommodation with en suite bathrooms.

The tariff is all inclusive and bookings can be made by contacting 031 2029090 or logging on to [www.tembe.co.za](http://www.tembe.co.za) Day visitors may visit Tembe provided they are in a 4x4 vehicle. There is however a daily limit of ten vehicles which are allowed into the park on a first come first serve basis. Facilities included on the tourist route are Mahlasela Hide, and overlooking a pan in the Muzi Swamp, Ponweni Hide. There is a picnic area at Manungu, a walking trail, closed off from large animals by an electric fence, and a viewing tower on Gowanini which offers a panoramic view over the reserve.

Tembe is about an hours drive from Ndumo on a fairly rough road. Both Tembe and Ndumo are part of a transfrontier conservation area with the Futi area in Mozambique.

## **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**

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

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

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

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

**MASAZANE EXPEDITIONS**

**CAMP AFRICA**

**CK 1996 / 015766 / 23**

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

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

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April 2006

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

### **NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK**

Beste Alan. Dankie vir die tydskrif. Baie interessante leesstof. Dit gaan veseker 'n treffer in 4x4 gelede wees!

Dr Kobus Kotzé  
SAXBY Medicross

Thanks for the updates...  
Cathy - ELROC

Hi Alan  
Perused your Looooong newsletter with great enthusiasm!  
Enough said, preparations for the Desertrun is taking up most of my spare time - IT takes up the other 29 hours per day!  
Regards - DES LITTLE

*Thank you for your e-zine. Apart from the time it takes to read - it is so long and seems to be getting longer - it is brilliant and highly appreciated.*  
Jaco van der Merwe

### **EXCELLENT SERVICE**

Good day Alan

*Would like to share the excellent service I received from Snomaster (manufacturer of 12/220v fridge/freezers). About two years ago I purchased a 80l Snomaster 12/220v fridge/freezer. I used it a lot and never had a problem with it. During our December 06 holiday in Ithala the unit was working fine for the first 3 day's, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day however the unit started running louder than usual lost some temperature but regained it after a while and kept running smoothly for the remainder of our time there. After our return I left it off in my trailer after cleaning it. When I put it on again in preparation for a weekend away the unit didn't want to switch on at all.*

*I called Snomaster directly and spoke to Warren, one of the technicians who explained to me what to look for on the unit. I could not get it fixed my self and phoned again and spoke to Debbie Cromhout who asked me to please send my address and a description of what was wrong in an email. The email was sent on Tuesday, 27 March, 2007 10:57 AM and I received a response back at 15:45 pm the same day – informing me that the unit will be picked up with their next trip to Pretoria from Johannesburg.*

*On Thursday 29 March 07, I was called by Chris, a technician from Snomaster informing me that he was at my house. He inspected and tested the unit on site and had the necessary spares on hand to fix it on site. We were amazed at the speedy service and friendliness of all involved.*

*Good after sale service like this is hard to find these day's, and effort like this needs to be communicated to all out there.*

*Kind regards  
Riaan Botha*

### **READERS EXPERIENCES SHARED**

*Herbie (Last Month's new Toyota feedback article writer)*

I found your feedback on your 12 months with the Hilux very interesting. I own exactly the same vehicle and up to recently my wife's car was also a VW Touran 1.9Tdi.

My Hilux is still 100% standard but for the same reasons you gave I will also have to do some modifications soon. After almost 9 months (26 000 km's) I am convinced that I want to drive my Hilux for a very long time so spending a bit of money on it will not be wasted.

With regards to the Speedo error margin the following. I also constantly travel with my GPS on the dash and have noticed the following. At 130km/h (GPS speed) the speedo over reads by 8,5%. The distance travelled however is the most accurate I have ever seen in any vehicle. It is out by less than 1km on a 1000 km trip. I found this strange because I would have thought that both distance and speed will be out by the same margin but after rechecking a couple of times my verdict is still the same. Speed is out significantly but distance is as accurate as you will get. This is on standard tyres though.

Tip for GPS. I use 2 sided tape. (Also called mirror tape) It comes off easy when you want it off and it leaves no mess. (Also had a bad experience with prestic)

Fuel Consumption. I tow a lot (Gazelle 610LP caravan / Off road trailer with rooftop / Double axle sheep trailer) and I must admit I have a bit of a heavy foot. Travelling speed when towing is normally between 120 - 130 km/h (Tar obviously) and travelling solo is normally between 130 and 150. My consumption life to date all included is currently 9,2km/l (10,9 lt/100 km) I do not have a canopy fitted and therefore the wind resistance is a lot lower than in your case. Consumption when driving solo very seldom drops below 10km/lt and the best so far was 11,8km/lt. This was achieved on the open road at a steady 130km/h speedo speed.

My experience on wind resistance. A roof carrier with tent made 1,8 km/lt difference on my previous vehicle (Colt Rodeo 2.8Tdi). I have also witnessed that fitment of a full bullbar (wrap around type) made 1km/l difference on a KZ TE 4x2 Toyota.

Regards  
Johan Olivier

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## ***Feedback from Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs***

Watch this space for more details. Refer to [www.aawdc.org.za](http://www.aawdc.org.za) and or [www.now.org.za](http://www.now.org.za) for more information.

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**AFRICA BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL ADVENTURES**

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

**LOCAL TOURS:****ROOF OF AFRICA (LESOTHO)**

DURATION—3½ DAYS

SELF DRIVE—4 X 4

ACCOMMODATION—LODGES

DATE: 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL-29<sup>TH</sup> 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:

10<sup>TH</sup> JULY-31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 200725<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST-13<sup>TH</sup> 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: 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY-4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007

COST: R3,900.00 PER PERSON

**BUSHCRAFT TRAINING:****4 X 4 SURVIVAL COURSE FOR FAMILY—GAME FARM MAGALIESBURG**DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2007

CAMPING AND SELF CATERING

COSTING AND DETAILS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE: [www.africa-bushcraft.co.za](http://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](http://www.africa-bushcraft.co.za)

WE ARE FLEXIBLE AND CAN DESIGN THE TOUR OF YOUR CHOICE—TRY US. OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

**KOOS MOORCROFT**

DEAT REGISTRATION NO: GP2424

CATEGORY: ADVENTURE GUIDE

PROVINCE-S: NATIONAL  
 SPECIALITIES: PROFESSIONAL 4 X 4 TRAILS AND OVERLAND TOURS  
 CELL: 0825792796  
 ISOBELLE MOORCROFT  
 CELL: 0825612613  
 TEL/FAX: 012-6536725  
 E MAIL: [kmoor@telkomsa.net](mailto:kmoor@telkomsa.net)  
 WEBSITE: [www.africa-bushcraft.co.za](http://www.africa-bushcraft.co.za)

January 2007

## **Fresh from the Bush – New Products**

Beautiful **mapbooks of the Kruger National Park** with pages of animals and birds for identification now again available from Big 5 Country! The books come in different editions in various languages - English, Afrikaans, German, Spanish and French, and retail at R29.95 each.

If you would like to order books for your guests, please phone Anri or Thembi at 013-737 8191. Buy 10 or more books and get 20% wholesale discount!!

## **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 were filmed here.
- The Chobe is proud and very famous for its abundance of elephants – the highest concentration to be found anywhere in Africa. Chobe is also famous for its rich bird life and, not least for its 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.

For more information visit our award-winning website: [www.explore-africa.co.za](http://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.

**Tanzania: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Zanzibar Island.**

18 August 2007- 20 September 2007.

**Gorillas in Uganda**

Dates on request.

[www.explore-africa.co.za](http://www.explore-africa.co.za)

**e-mail:** [info@explore-africa.co.za](mailto:info@explore-africa.co.za)

**Tel/Fax:** 012-6635319

**Cell:** 082 805 6765 (Office)

(January 2007)

***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:

**Available, confirmed and advertised training dates (contact us for details if you have not received these invites)! BOOK NOW!!!!**

***Fire Fighting for the outdoor enthusiast (June 07)***

Still coming:

**Outdoor Photography**

**Bush Mechanics**

**Tyre Repairs**

**Video Camera usage, tips & traps**

**Offroad Trailer / Caravan Towing Fundamentals**

**Snake Handling Course**

**...and potentially much more....**

These courses will be repeated in the year, potentially if possible, 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:

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](http://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](mailto:riverhill.lodge@worldonline.co.za)

**April 2006**

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

**BASS LAKE 4x4 TRAIL – GAUTENG**

The place - Bass Lake - is well known by the diving fraternity, as a close to home mass of 25m deep water, where one's favourite wet fantasies can be met – diving that is. Well, not far behind this world class facility, Bass Lake also provides a great offroad trail for the 4x4 enthusiast. If you have not been there, book now.

Bass Lake is a disused open cast mine which is flooded, and creates a great outdoor ambiance, right here on our doorstep in Gauteng. There are lovely braai facilities, lapa's on the waters edge and snack bar and shop. To test what is on offer, the 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club of Gauteng ventured down there on a lazy Sunday in April. The enthusiasm was so great that we ended up

with two groups of 7 being dispatched down south for the day, under the guidance of qualified 4x4 guides in the club.

On arrival, the administration and permits were completed, monies paid and route maps issued. The groups secured their Boma's on the water edge and then regrouped and headed off onto the trail to face the challenges available. First up was a mild uphill through a lush bushed area, seeing the trail climb from average ground level to the top level of the extinct open cast mine. En route the vehicles had to negotiate a large log across the damp path. Once on top, few gullies, axle twisters, log bridge and steep ascents were traversed where after crossing through a large wash-away area the 2<sup>nd</sup> group stopped at a large cul-de-sac to take in the view. From the height of the open cast mine's dump, one has a spectacular view over a river below and the outlying farming communities towards the Suikerbosrand area. Leaving this area, the driver is faced with some serious side slopes which certainly got the adrenalin going of some of the newer 4x4ers amongst us.

The trail then leads one into a series of serious descents and climbs which were wet and muddy due to recent rains. This called for caution and expert guiding to ensure no damage was caused to participants. However, everyone including the exciting little Freelander with the group proved to show its mettle on the day. Mud was enjoyed, more ups and downs and then the trail leads into The Arena, where more serious rock descents were found. Care was taken to lead each vehicle through the rocky drop offs and once safely through the trail led us to a previous training arena, with serious axle twisters and obstacles along the way.

From here the trail leads one back to traverse the serious sand (and mud!) incline and declines again, with a variety of different angles and approach lines. The excitement grew as the various vehicles, especially the new Fortuners strutted their stuff. Then it was into the tight rocky section on the opposite side of the dam, with spectacular views (when one stopped concentrating on the trail of the facilities and divers enjoying their past time below. Then it was through a couple of natural obstacles and finally down a few levels through two large water obstacles between double story high reeds.

One more stop to check out the view, and the vehicles returned back to base for a well deserved rest and afternoon luncheon braai. By this stage, the sun was beating down and one could forget the exact location while mesmerizing across the large expanse of water sipping a cool drink, while the kids snorkeled a few feet away. Bass lake certainly has a full day's activities to keep you busy. Go and visit now.

Contact details: Bass Lake Adventures – (016) 366 1127 or [basslake@basslake.co.za](mailto:basslake@basslake.co.za) for a booking. Speak to Allan Pepper

### **KRUGER NATIONAL PARK LONG HAUL**

Much negativity has been written in the past about the Kruger National Park. Be it camp sites that are too small and not well kept, restaurants that are substandard, staff that are unfriendly etc. etc. The list has been endless. So we went to see....

Stunning. That is all I can see. A 9 day sojourn through the park travelling from South to North, staying at camps such as Malelane, Satara, Shingwedzi and Punda Maria, with visits to most of the other camps en-route, not only saw us experience the thrill of the Big 5, but also the majestic flora and biomes of the park. The bush was lush, green and wet – and yes we had rain on many of the days we were out there.

Visits to all the park amenities proved exceptional, with well stocked shops for basic essentials, fresh produce, liquid refreshments, good meat and plenty of curios. At the bigger camps, exceptionally well stocked curio shops with market related prices were also to be found, and the

road side rest stops with small kiosks, rentable gas braai skottels and good restrooms were always a pleasurable stop to enjoy an ice cold cooldrink.

Having been in Gauteng for 6 years and only having done the Lebombo Trail on the perimeter fence of the Park in 2001, I was shocked to see what I had been missing most of my life. I now appreciate the sentiments of people who always told me about the majestic KNP. We will return.

All of the camp sites we stayed at were neat, clean ablutions were found with soap dispensers, toilet paper and constant mopping of floors. The sites, where available, had electricity, which made it easier for those with little children.

At Malelane Camp we were lucky to be within range of a recent kill (debate still rages if it was a rhino or buffalo), but regular visits to the site, close to the road, saw us experience lions from day one. This was obviously followed by vultures shortly after, and with buffalo, elephant, rhino, zebra and giraffe, the group was excited as 4 down of the big 5 on Day 1 is no mean feat. So the leopard hunt was on. One night the elusive hyena paid a visit to the camp perimeter fence, against which we stayed, much to the excitement of the children and fellow campers alike.

Travelling the southern region of the park, the sightings just improved. Imagine travelling within 30 metres of a waddling hippo, who was about 1.5km from any close waterhole of the Crocodile River. Then he crossed the road straight ahead of us. Huge man. We ventured in small groups into the maze of roads and all returned excited about what we had seen an experienced.

On to Satara and the spotting continued. The extensive booklets available in the park allowed the children to run tick lists of what had been seen and what not. Another glorious few days in this area and we moved on to Shingwedzi. This stunning camp allowed us again to create a comfortable base to go on the elusive leopard hunt and BINGO, we hit it. 3 vehicles in our convoy spotted the ever elusive cat travelling a mere 15-20 metres along side the road, and kept us enthralled for about a kilometre stretch as he darted in and out of the bushes at a brisk walking pace, all along the road. He was however so fast and unpredictable that taking good photos was a serious challenge, but we did get the few good ones. So, we ticked off the Big 5, with a huge pat on the back.

Moving to the more basic bush camp effect of Punda Maria, where the topography, terrain and growth changes dramatically, allowed us again to spot other elusive mammals. A visit to Crooks Corner is a must with large crocodiles being sited on the banks of the river, where South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe meet. It was at this picnic site that we enjoyed a huge brunch under the shady trees of the site.

What is our impression. Well certainly a positive one. No issues in camp sites, restaurants, with staff etc. It was indeed a huge experience for us 'first timers', and the group of 8 families sincerely enjoyed it. Where else can you go and tick of a sighting list as long as this one:

Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey, Tree Squirrel, Dwarf Mongoose, Buffalo, Blue Wildebeest, Burchells Zebra, African Elephant, Hippopotamus, Giraffe, Warthog, White Rhino, Impala, Nyala, Kudu, Klipspringer, Bushbuck, Waterbuck, Common Duiker, Steenbok, Sharpe's Grysbok, Hartebeest, Leopard, Hyaena, Lion, Longtailed Shrike, Redbilled Oxpecker, Lilacbreasted Roller, Woodland Kingfisher, Bateleur, Marabou Stork, Whitebacked Vulture, Martial Eagle, Grey Lourie, Scops Owl, Cape Turtle Dove, Kori Bustard, Crested Francolin, Crowned Plover, Helmeted Guineafowl, Swainson's Francolin, Glossy Starling, Yellowbilled hornbill, Hoopoe, Water Dikkop African Fisheagle, Pied Kingfisher, Hadeda Ibis, Goliath Heron, Grey Heron, Saddlebilled Stork, Darter, Hamerkop, Egyptian goose, Great white Egret, Crocodile, Dung Beetle, Leopard Tortoise, Serrated Hinged Terrapin, Spiders (various), Cheetah, Snakes (various).

The Kruger National Park is a national heritage and must be visited and must be preserved.

*Hello Alan,*

*We are safe and happy and very lucky back: next to the main road on our way back we first saw a lion not far from the road and later a rhino with a dead hippo!! The rhino tried to get the hippo's mouth up. It jumped on the hippo, it laid its head on the hippo –it was unbelievable.*

*Later on we saw a buffalo and a big elephant walking on the street coming up to us so that we had to escape backwards.*

*Our trip was a beautiful and great adventure. Thank you for your engagement. We enjoyed it very much indeed.*

*Michael will get my photos and he will send a DVD to you.  
Kind regards*

*Sammi*

*(German nationals who accompanied the club on this trip)*

### **SOUTPANSBERG LONG WEEKEND**

#### **Soutpansberg – Camp Africa**

With logistics sorted between the two convoys heading north for the long weekend, the final greetings were done and the first group left just after 6.30am. Never had anyone expected the N1 to Pietersburg to have near kilometre queues at the tollgates at this maddening hour of the morning. The rush had not subsided since 5.00am.

With great care, convoy rules and radio communications the first convoy, under the guidance of Morne vd Westhuizen and Lizette Swart as backdoor, tackled the long road to Bandelierskop, just south of Louis Trichardt. After a trouble free drive, a brief relief stop and a visit to the much damaged Tropic of Capricorn indicator, the destination point was reached, and the group was handed over, after a brief introduction, to local guide Daan Opperman who would be their leader for the next 4 and a half days.

It was at this point that Alan Goodway stayed behind to await the arrival of the second group from Gauteng, who were mostly towing trailers and caravans. On arrival, we regrouped and headed north, where we were met by Dave van Graan, owner of Camp Africa and our tour guide for the weekend. The mission – explore the Soutpansberg.

Dave led the convoy through Louis Trichardt and into the forested mountains above the town, high up to Camp Africa. Destination reached, the camp sites were pointed out, and everyone settled down to make a comfortable camp for the long weekend. Later the afternoon, the group met, were introduced to Dave and Camp Africa and we ran through the arrangements for the weekend. A late afternoon drive up to a view point next to the Hanglip Hikers Trail hut, gave us a feeling of what was still to come. With fabulous views extending for kilometres, the sheer beauty was absorbed by all. The long day ended with a social braai and campfire discussion.

Camp Africa is an exquisite camp and accommodation site nestled halfway up the Soutpansberg mountains in Louis Trichardt. Owned and managed by Dave and Jacqui van Graan, this top quality venue is perfect base to explore the region of the Soutpansberg. For the avid 4x4 explorer, the Soutpansberg offers a span of 180kms long by at points 60km wide 4x4 and back road travels.

With beautiful lawned camp sites, 7 fully equipped 4 bed huts, a large communal kitchen fitted to the hilt, a pleasurable pub and proper ablutions, the camp site is a gem yet to be discovered by groups from down south. With farm animals to amuse the kids, the large lapa offers great relaxing for parents who love to sit around a crackling fire, listening to the barking of the baboons and the calls of the eagles, with a stunning view down the mountain.

On the second day, the group was led by Dave to explore a series of forestry roads, and 4x4 tracks through the area. A great day was had by all, with steep declines, inclines, a river crossing, view points of note and the infamous Botha's pass thrown in for some excellent driving. Earlier the group also traversed down what is known as the mud slide, where during the 2002 floods, the waters washed a steep gully down the mountain side, taking with it a few houses of the local population at the point where it finally hit ground level.

Then on to stunning view sites to look at the scenery and some the Tate Vondo Dam which feed the tea plantations in the valleys below. From here we traversed the mountains, crossed rivers, visited waterfalls and viewed the stunning Lake Fundudzi from high up. Unfortunately on this leg of the trip, the side of the road collapsed as we were passing a stationary vehicle who was balanced on the side of the mountain, and the last vehicle in the convoy slid left into a large rock embankment with serious body damage. One cannot believe the damage that can occur in a case like this where a speed of about 5km is involved, and you have no control of the situation. Well, repairs to Alan's bakkie amount to R41K, and much inconvenience obviously follows. No more back door duties for me! However, these things happen, and this is an isolated incident, so time to move on.

Returning to camp, the excitement mounted as potjies were prepared, fires stoked and ingredients readied for the new annual potjie kos competition. Dave and Jacqui van Graan were nominated as judges and really sweated to come up with a winner, as all potjies prepared were absolutely stunning. Even the Italian Stallion, Mike Peilla, is now hooked and will be shopping for this commodity shortly I am told.

Merit nominations were given to Jonathan Greengrass with his Steak and Kidney Pie potjie, but he was discounted due to the judges stating it was a potjie competition, not a King pie competition – but boy was that delicious. Then George Prinsloo slipped into second place with a Springbok Curry Pot which was a real winner. However, traditionalists Dawid and Martie Hyman, with a lekker old Cape Waterblommetjie potjie won first prize. With a bit of a ceremony, with some local firewater, Alan commented on each team's pot, the preparation methods (like Stefan who was making his first potjie ever following SMS instructions being sent from a secret source!) and the fun and fellowship of the evening, after which prize giving took place. This year sees 2 winners, as the Camp Mangwela crew also had a competition, but next year we will only have 1. Well done to all involved. The gees and banter was great.

Day 3 of the hired guide outings saw us venture South to the stunning Last Post ( [www.lastpost.co.za](http://www.lastpost.co.za) ) private game reserve, where we were to drive the 4x4 trail and observe the game. During the 4x4 trail, a Land Cruiser had the unfortunate incident of losing it steering mechanism due to the impact with a hidden rock in long grass, and saw another recovery exercise being commandeered. This was a lengthy process, and the rest of the crew headed off to a nearby dam to have lunch and view the crocodile. The group then returned to base camp after a short stop over at Lalapanzi Museum en route to Louis Trichardt. On return, all campers received a large bag of avo's from Dave, and the lucky ones, a pot of his secret chilli relish – absolutely stunning.

We will go back to the Soutpansberg. It has good 4x4 routes on offer, great roads to be traversed through the mountains, exceptionally scenery, interesting cultural viewpoints and best of all, great

people and especially the guides that took us around. If you want to contact any of them, drop me a line.

Contact Dave van Graan on 082 772 6682 – [www.masazane.co.za](http://www.masazane.co.za)

*Hello Alan*

*The Zoutpansburg trip may have been disastrous for some, including you, however for us all, it was a great weekend! The fellowship was great, the trails were good and Jill and I really enjoyed getting the van back onto the road after 5 months, it's the longest it has ever stood still!*

*I hope your trip home was OK and the detour via Zambesi drive was well worth it. Once we cleared the accident on the N1/N4 intersection we were confronted with the traffic on the hi-way between Atterbury and Rigel standing dead still so opted to get off the N1 at Atterbury and drive up General Louis Botha to the R21.*

*Through the years the Zoutpansburg is an area that we have driven through many times but this is the first time we have had the opportunity to venture away from the N1 and explore the mountains and forests. We were pleasantly surprised to see how similar it is to Barberton which, as you know, is the area that Jill and I adore and where we wish to settle in years to come.*

*Thanks to you and to Charmaine for all, and to Keenan who talked non stop all the way from the Last Post to Camp Africa, we love him to bits!*

*Regards*

*Jonathan + Jill Greengrass*

Hi Alan,

Denise and I would like to thank you for the wonderful weekend. We enjoyed it so much. As we do not get much time to relax and get away from "business" this weekend break came at the right time. We hope that you get your vehicle sorted out shortly.

We look forward to the next trip!

Regards

Nigel and Denise Wilshire

### **Soutpansberg – Camp Mangwela**

#### **Friday 27 April 2007**

An early start to the day as we all made our way to the Total Petroport north of Pretoria for our journey to the beautiful Soutpansberg area. A quick briefing and introduction was done by Alan to introduce the convoy to Morne, the leader of the one group and Lizette who took backdoor. At 06:45 the 8 vehicles departed the very busy garage to make our way to Bandelierkop. We stopped at the Tropic of Capricorn to stretch legs and take some photos. We then made our way to the BP garage in Bandelierkop where we met Daan Opperman, our local guide for the weekend, and Chris and JP, our host's for the first night at the Last Post Nature Reserve ([www.lastpost.co.za](http://www.lastpost.co.za)). Once Alan and Morne had done the necessary introductions, Chris, Daan and JP led us to the camp where we were going to spend the night. On arrival at camp, JP announced that three safari tents were available for us. Preference was given to the members without rooftop / trailer tents. The tents had a double bed, 2 single beds, a corner bath with a shower and a flushing toilet, and the most unbelievable view on the dam.

In the late afternoon, after the tired souls had rested a bit, Daan and JP led the group up the mountain to a spectacular viewpoint for sundowners. Due to the recent rains, the bush was very thick, making game spotting an almost impossible task. When we returned to camp just after

17:00 the camp fire was burning and everyone got their goodies and came to sit around the fire. We all witnessed the new club kettle that was donated by Morne and Natalie be put on the fire for the first time so that it could start building some character. The Van der Merwe family very kindly offered to write a short poem / acronym and get it engraved to put on the kettle. Morne officially introduced Daan to the group and briefed everyone on the weekend ahead and the next day's activities. Everyone was exhausted from the long day and after dinner made their way to bed.

### **Saturday 28 April 2007**

At 08:00 we left camp for a short 4x4 trail on the Last Post Game Farm that was led by Daan and Barend from The Last Post Lodge, and we spotted some Kudu, Zebra and Impala. The trail was relaxing with one or two technical obstacles. Then, just as everyone was starting to relax, we were faced with a long, muddy two spoor track and a very tight 90° uphill turn through a deep, slippery mud hole. Barend, our guide, with his Land Cruiser was first in line, and just before the mud hole, got stuck; not enough momentum. All the drivers gathered around and were treated to a lift-and-push highlift jack recovery exercise. Very educational! Barend then gave it a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance, putting foot down just a little more, clearing the muddy obstacle. After witnessing how it should be done, we all made it through on first try, some neglecting to close the windows and got the inside of the vehicle painted with mud, our adrenaline was in over drive! Once we all calmed down from all the excitement we were faced with a steep rocky incline with a technical section close to the top, but with a bit of momentum we all made it to the top. Unfortunately we could not complete the trail, as we still had a long drive to Camp Mangwele that afternoon.

When we got back to camp we had a snack and packed up to leave by 14:00 for Camp Mangwele, where we would spend the next three nights. On route we stopped in Louis Trichardt to refuel and buy the last groceries for the rest of the weekend. Just passed the Verwoerd tunnels, we turned off the main road, and after negotiating some very bad roads, we finally arrived at Camp Mangwele at about 17:00, where we received a very warm welcome by Godfrey, the camp manager and soon to be tourist guide. Alpheus and Sampson ensured that the fire was burning and that there was sufficient wood to keep the water in the Donkey warm so that we could all enjoy a hot shower. Once camp was set up, everyone gathered around the fire, where Morne and Daan briefed us on the next day's activities. The bodies and minds were exhausted after the long day's drive, the bad roads and setting up camp, so after dinner everyone moved off to bed.

### **Sunday 29 April 2007**

Daan planned a short, relaxed day, so we had some time to make a small breakfast and some used the opportunity to appreciate their duvet a bit longer. Unfortunately, came 09:30, the Verwoerd Pajero had some battery problems and after assistance from Lizette's Pajero, we left camp at about 10:00 to visit the sacred Tshavhadinda Cave. On arrival at the Rambuda local authority, Godfrey briefed us on the local protocol when meeting the Chief. We were led into the meeting place, sat in a circle and after Godfrey negotiated with the chief's representative, the chief gave his permission for us to visit the cave. The Venda people in the region are still very traditional and superstitious and local tradition is still very much alive in them. The cave played a major part in the Venda's origin and outsiders were not allowed to visit it. We were the first group ever to get permission to visit the cave. Godfrey explained that the chief had agreed to open the cave for the public and there are big plans to restore it. This cave is currently under the leadership of Chief Rambuda and played an important role during the Venda Tribal war in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was mainly used by the Rambuda family under the leadership of Chief Tshikosi (who had 33 wives). One of the elders led the group on a stiff hike up the mountain and once at the top, explained (with Godfrey interpreting), the different areas surrounding the cave, the various battles, medicinal plants, people involved in the war and some of the Venda's traditions.

Unfortunately, the path that led to the actual cave was damaged by the rains and impassable. Although a bit disappointed, the whole history surrounding the origin of the Venda, and being able

to stand on the very ground where the Venda began, was an honour and made up for not being able to see the cave. On our way back down the mountain, we passed a graveyard close by. This is reserved for the Royal Family members only. The elder explained some of the rituals taking place during a funeral and no-one is allowed to witness these.

After the strenuous walk our tummies were rumbling and Daan led us to the Arts and Crafts centre nearby. Being a Sunday, only a few stalls were open and after a quick lunch, we hit the road again and headed for camp. Daan turned off the road, through a village and explained he knew a shortcut over the mountain. Coming around a corner, a narrow, two-spoor (sometimes only a single footpath) track, with a mountain on the one side, a gorge on the other, some serious donga's and rocks lay in front of us. First gear, low range, diff locks on, and easy on the throttle, saw everyone coming out on top. "Daan se kortpaadjie" has become the new rating for a road, slotting in just above a 4! After a brief stop, to let the adrenaline settle down, we made our way to camp to prepare for the potjiekos competition.

Godfrey arranged and negotiated with the chief from Tshixwadza that the local ladies perform traditional dances for us; these dances can only be performed with the Chief's approval. The ladies started dancing at 19:00 and were dressed in their traditional attire, known as Minwenda. They performed four dances, including the sacred "snake dance". This was a truly unbelievable experience for all, almost being mesmerized by the drums. Once the ladies had finished we had photo's taken with them and ordered some of their traditional dress, as souvenirs.

The potjies were ready and Daan went around for the tasting and judging. Starting with the Verwoerd entry, who put in extra effort in the presentation of their dish. Nogals ewe with "Karoo bossies" and fruit on the table and a Shiraz to wet the throat! Lizette was up next, followed by the Johan and Hardus "special combination pot", or should that be, garlic pot! We then moved to Geert, Jack, Koos and finally to Morne's potjies. Daan tallied the scores which were based on presentation, texture and taste. Second place went to Ben and Ninette, who made a fillet, rolled in lamb rib and covered with a peach and homemade pepper sauce, served with peppers stuffed with flavoured rice. First prize went to the Verwoerd's for their Karoo leg of lamb potjie, carefully prepared and served by waitresses! Good fun was had by all and some celebrated until late into the night.

### **Monday 30 April 2007**

This was to be a long, strenuous day and although some woke fresher than others, we left camp at 09:00 for a very adventurous day. Daan took us over Mamba's Pass to get to the famous lake Fundudzi. After stopping at a couple of viewpoints, we made our way right down to the water's edge where we stretched legs and took a group photo.

We then made our way through the forest roads and drove through the Holy Forest to the Lwamondo viewpoint. On the way, Ben, Johan and Lizette "lost their way" around the many forest tracks. Thank goodness for modern technology and with some very practical application of radio's and GPS's it didn't take too long for the group to get back together again. After a quick stop at a viewpoint, overlooking the tea plantations around Tate Vondo Dam, Daan led us to the Tshirourhva waterfall for a quick lunch. We then made our way to the Tshatshingo Potholes. These potholes were discovered many years ago, and were used for capital punishment, some years back.

We then made our way back to camp, yet again on one of Daan's "kort paadjies". Sampson and Alpheus had the fire burning and the Donkey was boiling for a hot shower and for us to braai. Morne thanked Daan for the lovely weekend and for all the interesting places we visited. He also did the last briefing of the trip and thanked everyone for a lovely time and their cooperation. Frans thanked Morne on behalf of the group for doing a great job in leading. Everyone went to bed early to get enough rest for the next day's long drive back.

**Tuesday 01 May 2007**

We all got up early to break down camp. We left Camp Mangwele at 09:00 to get to Louis Trichardt to refuel and end the tour. Geert and Kea turned off to visit some friends before they made their way home. Upon reaching Louis Trichardt we said our last good bye's and bid farewell to everyone. We met up with Alan and his group and hit the incredibly busy N1 back to civilisation.

**Conclusion**

Our local guide, Daan, had an enormous amount of knowledge of the area and took us on roads and to places the normal tourist will never know about. This made the experience so much more enjoyable and adventurous. Even Godfrey, who went along on two days, had an enormous passion and love for the area and its people. He provided plenty input, explaining the Venda culture and their beliefs. Visiting an area like this, which has so much to offer, it's almost a must to have one of the local guides with you to show you around and tell the stories behind the places and it's people.

A weekend it not nearly long enough to explore the whole of the Soutpansberg and trying to squeeze in as much as possible in such a short time, does not do the area justice. As we moved from hotspot to hotspot, Daan would tell us of 10 other places in-between which are not as well known, but just, if not more, beautiful. To fully explore the area, one should divide the Soutpansberg into four parts, North, East, South and West and then set aside a week to explore each area. This is not always possible for us working class folk, but it gives us reason to go back.

It was a most enjoyable trip, visiting some of the more famous attraction in the Soutpansberg and with our local guide taking us on some really hair-raising and spectacular short-cuts, had the adrenaline pumping on more than one occasion. This is why we bought our 4x4's. It's to explore areas like this, where the road to get from A to B, is a natural 4x4 obstacle, not possible to negotiate with any other vehicle.

Contact Daan Opperman on Cell: +27 (0) 82 768 8801 - website : [www.traveltrails.co.za](http://www.traveltrails.co.za)

We will be back!  
Morne & Natalie

*Hi Alan*

*Just a quick note to thank you for all the arrangements for above trip that was wonderful and to feed back to you that Morne did a great job as group leader.*

*Regards.*

*Koos Van Der Merwe*

Thanks for arranging a super trip. Morne did great. Oom Daan set us seriously challenging tests and we all managed them.

Geert de Vries

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

**CANOPY FOR SALE – 2004 SHAPE TOYOTA HILUX (BEFORE NEW SHAPE)**

Front Runner steel canopy, with two side hatches opened only from inside, with spare wheel carrier on back door. Colour Silver – can be resprayed.

New cost is +/- R10 000.00

Make me an offer I cannot refuse.

Call Alan on 082 603 8321 / [4x4offroad@mweb.co.za](mailto:4x4offroad@mweb.co.za)

See website for picture at bottom of page – [www.4x4offroadclub.co.za](http://www.4x4offroadclub.co.za)

### **COLT BAKKIE FOR SALE**

1996 - Mitsubishi Colt Rodeo V6, D/C

Kilos - 230,000 (full service history)

Extras

- Freeflow & branches (new)
- Full Canopy
- Bulbar with Spots
- Rubber mat
- EcoTek Valves (for better fuel consumption)
- Front loader CD
- Gearlock
- Alarm & Anti hijack

All maintenance items replaced over the last year (shocks, valve stem seals, clutch, brakes, propshaft, gearbox seals)

R65,000.00 (unfortunately not negotiable)

**Ben van der Merwe**

**Office** +27 11 450 1255

**Mobile** +27 83 227 9561

### **LAND ROVER FOR SALE**

Hi Alan,

I have been recommended to you by Barry Pickford. I hope you can help me out! I am selling my Land Rover Defender 2.8i. Not very happily as I am quite attached to her but the petrol bills are killing me, I have a new job that requires a bit more driving than anticipated. I have looked after her well – all details below – would greatly appreciate it if you could mention the sale in your newsletter? Lady driver as well as the owner before me.

Land Rover 90 2.8i

- 1997 model, 218 000 km, FSH – serviced 210 000km
- Air conditioner, power steering
- P&P Anti theft device & immobilizer – loud alarm!
- New tyres – Bridgestone Dueller A/T – recently rotated & aligned.
- Extras: Bull bars (black), tow bar, Mountain bike rack – swing arm holds 3 bikes.
- Spots – Rallye 2000 – mounted on bull bar.
- Electronics : LG Tape/Radio – removable with cover
- Chrome Mags with lock nuts
- Parts recently replaced:
  1. New battery, rear flange seal and vicus fan
  2. New Clutch
  3. New brakes – with last service.
- In very good condition and well looked after.
- R115 000 o.n.o.

Anthea Gould (083 461 1164)

**Colt 2004 D/C**

Rollbar. New condition. R900.00

Tanneau cover – R300.00, or R1000.00 for both.

**Land Rover** series 3 gearbox. R750.00

Louw Engelbrecht @ 083 227 8411.

Centurion.

**GOODIES FOR SALE**

Hi Alan,

I have the following for sale if any of the members are interested. I have upgrade to the Disco 3. Front Runner 2.2m windcheetah slimline roof rack to fit Discovery 2. Less than a year old – only used on one trip.

New price R4885 excluding vat

My price R3000

National Luna portable battery box and Voyager battery 105amp - R2500.

Regards

Etienne Beukes

083 2685821

***Flat Wheel – Light Relief***

**MOVING COURT JUDGEMENT**

A seven year old boy was at the center of a courtroom drama today when he challenged a court ruling over who should have custody of him. The boy has a history of being beaten by his parents and the judge initially awarded custody to his aunt, in keeping with the child custody law and regulations requiring that family unity be maintained to the degree possible. The boy surprised the court when he proclaimed that his aunt beat him more than his parents and he adamantly refused to live with her.

When the judge suggested that he live with his grandparents, the boy cried out that they also beat him. After considering the remainder of the immediate family and learning that domestic violence was apparently a way of life among them, the Judge took the unprecedented step of allowing the boy to propose who should have custody of him. After two recesses to check legal references and confer with child welfare officials, the judge granted temporary custody to the South African Cricket team, who the boy firmly believes are not capable of beating anybody !

**DO YOU THINK PETROL IS EXPENSIVE?**

Diet Coke 100ml @ R2.80 = **R28.00 per litre**

Lipton Ice Tea 200ml @ R3.50 = **R17.50 per litre**

Amstel 750ml @ R9.50 = **R12.60 per litre**

Energade 250ml @ R3.00 = **R12.00 per litre**

Brake Fluid 100ml @ R6.00 = **R60.00 per litre**

Vick's Nasal Sprayl 50ml @ R9.00 = **R180.00 per litre**

And this is the **REAL KICKER...**

Hugo Boss Spray 50ml @ R225.00 = **R4500.00 per litre**

*So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on Hugo Boss Spray, Coke, or Vick's Nasal Spray!!!*

*Just a little humour to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump...  
And - If you don't pass this on to at least one person, your exhaust will fall off!*

**AI, DIE LANDIES!**

Het julle gehoor van die ou wat by die spares plek inloop en die ou agter die toonbank vra hy soek 2 wiper blades vir n Landy? Die ou agter die counter dink so rukkie toe se hy....OK, dit klink na n goeie ruil.

Vraag: Hoe verdubbel jy 'n tweedehandse Landy se waarde?

Antwoord: Jy gooi sy tenk vol petrol.

**MOZHELP – A MUST HAVE EMERGENCY NUMBER**

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

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

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

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

**Contact:**

Reghardt Meyer  
MOZHELP  
CNR OF INBANI AND MARULA STREET,  
MALELANE

TEL 013-7900265  
FAX 013 7900427  
CELL 0829400140

**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](mailto:echoacc@mweb.co.za). Web: [www.echo4x4.co.za](http://www.echo4x4.co.za)

## 2) 4x4 INSURANCE

Phillip Viljoen Insurance Brokers has a special deal for all 4x4 enthusiasts, if you tell him you saw this advert. Qualify for great discount. Contact [leisuresure@webspeed.co.za](mailto: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](mailto:kevin@gpsconsultants.co.za) / [marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za](mailto:marietjie@gpsconsultants.co.za) / [www.gpsconsultants.co.za](http://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](http://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](mailto: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, Eastrand: 011-8285381, Johannesburg North 011-4678210, Bloemfontein: 051-4478360, Cape Town 021-5552790 and Nelspruit 013-7553391

**14) ONLY FOR MEMBERS - HAVANAH CAFÉ (MENLYN)**

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

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

André and Thea Sonnekus

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**Editor:**

**Alan Goodway (GP 1796)**

Registered DEAT Tourist Guide - National

Owner - 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng)

Committee Member - Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs SA

Member Club - Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs SA

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