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LROC NEWS

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Est. 1960

It all began when Frank Dandridge and Reg Whitley bought their first Land Rovers and met through the agents at the time, Fischer & Simmonds.

For more on the history of The Land Rover Owners' Club of Southern Africa, visit:

www.lroc.org.za/about/

Landys being Landys...



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Clint Mason
Chairperson

For those who know me — and even those who may have only exchanged a few words — it should come as no surprise that I am a passionate off-road enthusiast. My love for the bush, the trail, and the grit of the drive is no secret. I consider myself incredibly fortunate that my journey into this world began behind the wheel of my Defender 90 Tdi, affectionately known as Emma. She remains my pride and

joy, a trusted companion in countless adventures and, in many ways, the very heartbeat of my off-roading life.

The thrill of off-roading is not singular in nature; rather, it is layered, textured, and deeply satisfying on multiple levels. There is something profoundly invigorating about knowing that although many of the places we travel to are technically accessible, the vast majority of people never make the journey. The fear of leaving the comfort of tarred roads behind is enough

to keep most within the safe confines of more conventional holiday destinations. And so, the pristine, awe-inspiring reaches of this continent remain largely unexplored — open only to those of us with the will, the wheels, and the wanderlust.

It's not that I can't appreciate the charm of more traditional getaways. A beach holiday in Ballito or a trip up Table Mountain by cable car has its merits. But with time and repetition, those

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experiences have lost their appeal for me. I've stood in too many queues, scrolling mindlessly on my phone, surrounded by hot, irritable fellow tourists as we inched toward the next 'must-see' attraction, be it an overpriced ice cream stall or, my personal nemesis, the shopping mall. For me, the real magic begins when the tar ends.

Of course, not everyone shares my appetite for days of winching, digging, and powering through thick mud, only to end the day in a remote campsite where the nearest shower is a river and the night sky reminds you of your place in the universe. But to me, that's adventure. That's living. And while I may stand at the extreme end of the spectrum, somewhere between shopping malls and axle-deep water lies the sweet spot for most Landy lovers — that delicate balance between challenge and comfort, solitude and fellowship.

Our Land Rovers are far more than vehicles; they are keys to unlocking unforgettable moments, conduits to landscapes few will ever witness, and passports to meeting some of the most extraordinary people. The camaraderie we share is one of the most rewarding parts of the experience. Over the years, I've come to cherish not just the destinations, but the people beside me — equally mad, equally muddy, and equally enthralled by the call of the wild.

Lately, there's been a noticeable shift in the types of events that garner the most participation within the club. And while it's important that we continue to evolve and cater to a broad range of interests, I must admit, it warmed my heart to see the turnout at the recent Trail Blaze event on 1 March 2025. After a year in which many Trail Blaze events had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, the turnout at the Lion & Safari Park offered a long-awaited glimmer of hope.

The trail itself surprised me — and many others — with its degree of complexity. I found myself deep in conversation with fellow drivers throughout the day, all equally taken aback by the diversity and technical challenge of the course. Originally intended as a general venue activity, the trail is now under the stewardship of 4x4 enthusiast Terrence, due to the sensitive nature

of the surrounding habitat, which includes lions, hyenas, and wild dogs. Under his experienced guidance, we were led through a series of obstacles that were as exhilarating as they were educational.

Terrence's stewardship of the trail was impressive. The variety of challenges offered something for everyone, and while none of the obstacles risked damaging our vehicles, there was one particular section he wisely chose to bypass. After walking me through it, I wholeheartedly agreed that attempting it could have changed the day's tone entirely. But that's the beauty of a well-run trail — the right balance of risk, responsibility, and reward.

What stood out most for me that day was not just the terrain, but the spirit of the people. There was no bravado, no one trying to outdo another or prove anything. Just a shared love for the drive, the dust, and the Defenders. From newcomers just beginning their journey, to seasoned veterans with stories etched into their tyres, it was a joy to chat, laugh, and drive together.

I understand that not every event will attract the same numbers. We all have different preferences and priorities. But on that day, watching Landys doing what they were built for, surrounded by drivers doing what they love — that was special. That was a reminder. Our vehicles, our community, and our adventures are something truly unique. We must remember, it was Land Rover that coined the phrase "One Life. Live It." And on that trail, for just a moment, we all did exactly that.



65 Years of Grit, Gear, and Glory



Jennifer Howard
Sub Committee Chairperson

The Blue Sapphire Celebration is taking shape, with the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa's 65th Anniversary plans now in full swing.

Excitement is building across the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa as preparations for the Club's 65th Anniversary Celebration move full steam ahead. Set to take place from 24 to 28 September 2025, the event promises to be a landmark occasion — a fitting tribute to 65 years of adventure, camaraderie, and Landy passion.

The Blue Sapphire Celebration Sub-Committee, under the guidance of Chairperson and

fellow LROC member Jeannette Howard, has been hard at work finalising the foundation of what is sure to be an unforgettable gathering. At the heart of the announcement is the confirmation of a truly stunning venue: Rotsinbos, located just outside Brits. This scenic and spacious location, surrounded by natural beauty, offers the perfect backdrop for the celebration. With ample space for camping, lodging, and a host of activities, Rotsinbos is set to become the heartbeat of the Land Rover community this September.

Planning is already well underway, and the Sub-Committee has wasted no time

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LROC'S 65th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a memorable event filled with joy, reflection, and festivities as we commemorate this significant milestone.

Your presence will make this occasion even more special.

Date: 24 to 28 September 2025 (4 Nights)

Venue: Rotsinbos Bush Camp & Lodge
Accommodation: Bookings essential: By 30th April 2025 to secure your accommodation: Camping, Bush Chalets or Safari Tents.

Contact Dawn from Rotsinbos either call or WhatsApp on 083 793 6361

Quote booking code: LROC 65th

For other information contact Jenny on 083 459 7738

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in crafting an exciting lineup of events and experiences designed to bring members together in the true spirit of the Club. From adventurous challenges to family-friendly fun, the programme will include something for every kind of Landy lover. In addition to a range of engaging activities, the event will also showcase an impressive list of partners — companies and organisations that share our passion for exploration and will add even more value to the weekend.

Communications have already begun rolling out to members, with the first of many WhatsApp updates — including a digital invitation — already circulating in Club channels. The official event website is also in the final stages of development, with its launch scheduled for early May. This dedicated site will serve as the central hub for updates, registration information, programme highlights, and more.

In the months leading up to the celebration, the Sub-Committee will continue to ensure that information is shared timeously with Club members and the broader Land Rover community. Whether you're a long-time member or relatively new to the fold, this is a celebration not to be missed — a chance to honour our shared history while forging new memories together.

So mark your calendars, dust off your camping gear, and get ready. The 65th Anniversary Celebration is fast approaching... and it's going to be legendary.

Communicating Our Journey

Clint Mason
Chairperson

For as long as Land Rovers have been traversing the rugged terrain of Southern Africa under the proud banner of the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa, one humble yet powerful tool has served as the connective thread between members: the Club newsletter.

Nestled deep within the archives of the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa, this publication stands as one of the earliest and most enduring artefacts of Club life. Its legacy is both profound and deeply personal. More than just a document, the newsletter has, over decades, become a living record of our shared adventures, our milestones, our challenges, and the remarkable community that defines who we are.

Since those formative years, the newsletter has played a critical role in the life of the Club — not only as a source of news and information but as a cultural touchstone, a voice of continuity, and a reflection of our ever-evolving journey. It has consistently carried with it the stories of remote trails and technical recoveries, the quiet magic of wilderness camps, and the roar of engines echoing through the valleys of Southern Africa. Through every edition, it has kept members abreast of events, updates, and essential resources, while also capturing the character and soul of the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa.

Over the years, the newsletter has evolved alongside the Club itself. New sections, new voices, and fresh formats have emerged, all aimed at ensuring our community remains well-informed, engaged, and connected — not just to the Club, but to one another. This ongoing evolution has been driven by a singular aim: to strengthen the sense of belonging among members, while ensuring that the newsletter remains relevant, vibrant, and reflective of the diverse interests that make

up our Club's unique tapestry.

The most recent format refresh is no exception. Today, the newsletter is being thoughtfully and strategically refined to better meet the objectives set for this key communication channel. At its core, the goal is to ensure that the newsletter continues to clearly and consistently articulate the ongoing activities of the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa, capturing the vibrancy of our Club life in real time while laying down the foundation of what will, in time, become the historical record of our organisation.

Our current efforts focus on three key areas of improvement — each of which plays a crucial role in ensuring that the newsletter continues to serve the needs of our members in both a practical and inspirational sense.

The first is a reimagining of the longstanding Member Advertisements section. Historically modelled after a traditional classified section, this part of the newsletter has long offered members the opportunity to showcase their businesses, advertise services, or sell goods within the trusted confines of our Club community. Now under review, this section is being carefully considered to ensure that it continues to add real value — not only for those advertising, but also for readers. Importantly, it must be remembered that the right to advertise in this section is a membership benefit, open to all Club members, and forms part of the ecosystem that supports our vibrant, skilled and enterprising community.

The second area under development is a revitalised approach to the Affiliates Programme — an initiative with immense potential that has, in the past, experienced a number of false starts. Most recently in 2023, efforts were made to breathe new life into this programme, with the goal of fostering mutually beneficial relationships between the Club and like-minded businesses and organisations that share

our passion for exploration, adventure, and the great outdoors. The current iteration aims to take those learnings and transform them into a practical and sustainable model that brings value to both members and affiliate partners, through exclusive offers, meaningful engagement, and shared experiences.

Lastly, we are placing renewed emphasis on the inclusion of critical repositories of information — evergreen content and resources that remain relevant regardless of the month in which an edition is released. These include safety protocols, technical tips, contact information, Club procedures, and useful reference materials. By embedding these consistent elements into each edition, we aim to make the newsletter not only timely but timeless — a reference point that members can return to, again and again.

Together, these improvements form part of a broader commitment by the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa to strengthen and modernise its communications without losing sight of the legacy that brought us here. The newsletter, in all its formats past and present, holds a proud and respected place in our Club's history. It has been our guidebook, our noticeboard, our photo album, and our journal. And with careful stewardship and thoughtful innovation, it will continue to be a vital part of our future.

In the months to come, further enhancements to the newsletter will be rolled out — each shaped by the same spirit that has always driven the Club: a passion for adventure, a love for Land Rovers, and a deep appreciation for the community we have built together. Through these efforts, we ensure that the newsletter remains not only a record of where we've been, but a beacon for where we are going.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

As the Chairperson of our Club, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. We are thrilled to have you join our community of passionate Land Rover enthusiasts who share a common love for adventure, exploration, and camaraderie.

A little while ago I was reminded of the profound impact that our Club can have on our lives by Paul Foster, the Chairperson of the LROC PE Chapter, who stated, "I am never leaving the Club, you never know who is joining next and you never know... they might very well be your next best friend." These words truly resonated with me as they highlight the power of connection and friendship that lies at the heart of our Club.

Although our Club has been in existence for over 63 years and has matured as an organization, and we recognize that we are never too old to make new friends and embrace new

experiences.

We are excited to have you as part of our community, and we look forward to creating new memories and sharing many adventures together.

I invite you to take advantage of the numerous events and activities that we offer and to fully immerse yourselves in the Land Rover Owners' Club of Southern Africa. It is through your participation and enthusiasm that we will continue to thrive and grow as a community.

Once again, welcome to our Club. I hope you enjoy being a part of it as much as I do, and I look forward to seeing you soon and sharing the joy of Land Rover ownership with you.

Clint Mason
Chairperson



Whoops, that's a shame. There are no new members to introduce to our awesome community of Landy Owners



Let's Talk ORRA

Effective communication is a vital part of any off-road adventure, and for the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa (LROC), the Off-Road Radio Association (ORRA) ensures that members can stay connected reliably and legally. Since its establishment in 1977 by the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa, the 4x4 ATV Club (then the Jeep Club of Southern Africa), and the Four Wheel Drive Club of Southern Africa, ORRA has been at the forefront of facilitating two-way radio communication for off-road enthusiasts across the country.

ORRA has grown alongside advancements in technology, beginning with 27MHz CB radios in its early years, before transitioning to 29MHz frequencies in 1979, and introducing VHF frequencies in 2006 in collaboration with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA). This progression reflects ORRA's commitment to providing reliable and modern communication solutions to meet the needs of the off-road community.

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A cornerstone of ORRA's role is recognizing legitimate off-road clubs and granting their members access to radio licenses. This structured approach fosters responsible use of radio communication while ensuring compliance with South Africa's Telecommunications Act. By managing specific frequencies for off-road activities, ORRA promotes safe, effective communication that enhances the overall off-road experience.

ORRA also facilitates cross-border communication for adventurers exploring Botswana and Namibia. Through carefully negotiated agreements, LROC members and other enthusiasts can legally use their VHF radios in these countries, provided they obtain the required documentation in advance. This initiative is invaluable for off-roaders who want to remain connected during their journeys beyond South Africa's borders.

For LROC members who wish to join ORRA's network, the process is straightforward. By submitting an application form along with proof of club membership and the required fees, members can secure a user authorization card, granting them access to ORRA's designated radio frequencies. This ensures compliance with national regulations while unlocking a critical tool for safety and coordination during off-road adventures.

The importance of using licensed radio equipment cannot be overstated. Operating unlicensed transmitters is not only illegal but can disrupt vital communication networks. ORRA's licensing framework ensures that off-road enthusiasts can enjoy worry-free communication while respecting broader communication systems.

Whether navigating tough trails, coordinating convoy movements, or sharing stories over the airwaves, reliable communication is essential for any off-road adventure. ORRA's work makes it easier than ever for LROC members to focus on what matters most—exploring the rugged beauty of Southern Africa. For more information or to apply for a license, visit ORRA's official website at www.orra.co.za.



On the Horizon

Future Events: Because owning a Landy means there is always something to look forward to...

LROC Event

Landys and Lattes April 2025



From: Sat, 05 Apr 2025 10:00
To: Sat, 05 Apr 2025 14:00
Hosted By: Simon Meanwell
Venue: Club Naval - TYC Yacht Club

Another spectacular Landys & Lattes adventure is set to take place in early April 2025, promising a day filled with exploration, camaraderie, and breathtaking scenery. The journey begins at Hartford Garage, where Land Rover enthusiasts will gather before setting off in convoy. The route will take participants through the stunning landscapes nestled between the Magaliesberg and Witwatersberg mountain ranges, offering a mix of winding trails, rugged terrain, and panoramic views that embody the spirit of adventure.



The convoy will make its way to the TYC Yacht Club at Hartbeespoort, a picturesque setting on the northern shores of Hartbeespoort Dam in Schoemansville. Surrounded by the towering Magaliesberg Mountains and the shimmering waters of the dam, the club provides a serene escape for sailors, water sports enthusiasts, and nature lovers alike. Here, participants will enjoy a delicious lunch at Club Naval, where they can relax, share stories from the road, and take in the tranquil beauty of the surroundings.

Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or new to the Land Rover lifestyle, this event is the perfect opportunity to embrace the open road, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and experience the joy of Land Rover ownership.



LROC Event

Dinokeng Series Weekend Adventure 2025



From: Fri, 09 May 2025 10:00
To: Sun, 11 May 2025 14:00
Hosted By: Attie Smit
Venue: Willem's Rus, Dinokeng
Costs:

Willems Rust:
 - Children age 0-6: R135.00 pppn;
 - Adults age 13-60: R220.00 pppn; and
 Adults above 60: R200.00 pppn.
 Maximum of 6 persons per site. Only one additional vehicle per campsite allowed at R95.00

Dinokeng Game Reserve:
 - Conservation fee: R120.00 per adult at the gate or R100.00 online.
 R80.00 per child at the gate or R50.00 online.

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- Vehicle entrance fee:
R50.00
- Self-drive fee:
R200.00 per vehicle per day or
R270.00 for 2 days.
R125.00 per vehicle per day for
pesioners

Note: This event is open to all Landys, not just Series vehicles.

Embark on an unforgettable weekend at the Dinokeng Game Reserve, home to both the big and small five, located just 50 km north of Pretoria. This exclusive event is set in the pristine wilderness of Willem's Rus, one of the premier camping sites within the reserve. Revel in the thrill of the real bush, navigating your Series vehicle through diverse self-drive routes crafted to enhance your game viewing experience.

Unlike typical guided tours, there will be no convoy driving. This unique approach allows you the freedom to explore at your own pace, increasing your chances of encountering wildlife in its natural habitat.

Willem's Rus offers a genuine bushveld experience, perfect for those who drive a Series Land Rover and cherish rugged adventures. The campsite provides essential amenities to ensure comfort while you immerse yourself in the tranquility of Dinokeng's spectacular scenery.

Join us for this special weekend where the wilderness of Dinokeng awaits to be explored.

Event Reports

Because owning a Landy means there is always something worth writing about...

LROC Event

Trail Blaze March 2025



Date:

1 March 2024

Hosted By:

Paul Diessel

Venue:

Lion & Safari Park

The Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa (LROC) proudly launched its 2025 Trail Blaze series with an unforgettable event at the renowned Lion & Safari Park, situated near Broederstroom. This premier destination, nestled within the Cradle of Humankind, spans approximately 600 hectares and serves as a sanctuary to a diverse array of indigenous wildlife, including lions, cheetahs, hyenas, leopards, wild dogs, and various antelope species. Beyond its wildlife conservation efforts, the park offers a plethora of activities, such as guided game drives, self-drive safaris, and unique animal interactions, making it a sought-after spot for both tourists and locals.

On the morning of the event, a convoy of eight Land Rovers, filled with enthusiastic drivers and passengers, assembled with palpable anticipation. Following the completion of registrations and indemnity formalities, the group convened for a comprehensive pre-trail briefing led by our seasoned trail marshal, Terrence. With his extensive experience and deep understanding of off-road dynamics, Terrence provided invaluable insights and guidance, ensuring participants were well-prepared for the challenges ahead. ↕

For those familiar with the Lion & Safari Park of yesteryears, the transformation of the venue is nothing short of remarkable. The relocation in 2016 to its current expansive setting has ushered in a new era of enhanced facilities and a heightened emphasis on tourism excellence. The modern amenities and professional ambiance reflect the park's commitment to providing visitors with a world-class experience.

The 4x4 trail itself was a revelation. Participants encountered a diverse array of terrains, from steep descents and muddy stretches to water crossings, rocky paths, and sandy tracks. This eclectic mix offered drivers a comprehensive off-roading experience, challenging their skills and showcasing the formidable capabilities of their Land Rovers. Under Terrence's vigilant supervision, each obstacle was approached with confidence and tackled safely, allowing drivers to push their vehicles to the limits while ensuring the well-being of all involved.

As the sun began its descent, casting a golden hue over the African landscape, the group gathered around the braai area. The air was filled with the rich aroma of grilling meat and the harmonious sounds of camaraderie. Stories of the day's adventures were exchanged, laughter resonated, and the bonds of the LROC community were further strengthened. It was a fitting conclusion to a day that encapsulated the spirit of adventure and fellowship that defines the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa.

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated and contributed to making this event a resounding success. Here's to many more trails, tales, and togetherness in the journeys ahead.