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LROC NEWS

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LROC WhatsApp Community

As we continue to develop our communication strategies to better engage with members, it has become increasingly clear that managing the Club's various WhatsApp groups—both for the Club and its members—could be greatly enhanced by adopting the WhatsApp Community feature. We plan to implement this migration throughout November 2024.

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LROC 2025 MEMBERSHIP FEES

As 2025 approaches, the Executive Team has conducted a thorough review of the Club's financial and operational performance to ensure continued value for members. This assessment has informed updates to our membership fee structure and payment options, maintaining alignment with the Club's commitment to fair and effective service delivery.

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LANDROVING RELAUNCH

Since mid-2024, the Club has been working to relaunch LandRoving, our beloved magazine known for its tales of adventure. Despite initial progress and strong interest, our volunteers have been stretched thin by a busy event schedule, causing delays in publication.

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A Landy Adventure of Friendship and Discovery

For some, the wait until Saturday, 21 September 2024, for the departure was almost too long, such was the excitement for the epic event crafted and hosted by our fellow club member, Noel Andrews.

While most of our members had already set off earlier, Michelle and I, bound by the full working week, began our journey just after sunrise on Saturday. Our adventure started with a drive towards our first night's accommodation overlooking the majestic Gariepdam. The following day, we continued our trek, traversing the eastern border of the Karoo, making our way to the beautiful coastal town of Port Alfred.



Michelle and I had always intended to make the trip to and from Port Alfred a significant part of our holiday experience, seizing the opportunity to enrich our journey with a variety of experiences as we ventured from town to town. This approach to travel is my favourite, particularly when behind the wheel of my trusty Defender. Each stop offered its unique charm and character, enhancing our adventure and allowing us to fully embrace the spirit of exploration that comes with driving a Land Rover.

The Karoo offers a beauty that's distinctly its own—a vast, arid expanse where roads, power, and telephone lines stretch for miles in straight lines until they disappear



over the horizon. This unique landscape, which I seldom visit, presented a perfect opportunity for Michelle and I to immerse ourselves fully in the region's offerings. One of the highlights of our journey was our stay at 'A Dams View,' a charming self-catering guest house overlooking Gariepdam, just a stone's throw from de Stijl Gariep Hotel where we enjoyed a delightful dinner. Additionally, we stopped at Willem Se Kampie Padstal, a roadside farm stall growing in popularity ever since a local farmer and resident appeared on the reality show 'Boer Soek 'n Vrou.' Each of these experiences added a rich layer to our adventure through the Karoo, making every moment memorable.

Our two-day journey



was sprinkled with numerous photographic opportunities, each stop a chance to capture the stark beauty of the Karoo. Even mundane moments became majestic when framed with our Land Rovers—these vehicles add a touch of grandeur to any scene. One such moment was at a traffic control stop-and-go area, where ongoing roadworks had reduced the two-lane tar road to a frustratingly slow one-way traverse. Despite the delay, this provided a unique backdrop, turning an ordinary wait into a memorable snapshot of our adventure through this remarkable landscape.

As one approaches the coastal regions, past landmarks like Somerset

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East and Bedford, the landscape dramatically transforms with the imposing presence of wind turbines. These turbines are not only massive in scale individually but also in the swathes of land they occupy. This area benefits from the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), which promotes private investment in grid-connected renewable energy projects. In the Eastern Cape, wind farms play a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions and fostering local economic

development. They create jobs during both construction and operational phases and are pivotal in advancing South Africa's commitment to renewable energy and sustainability. By harnessing one of the country's most abundant natural resources, wind, these farms symbolize a significant stride towards environmental responsibility.

Our travels led us along winding roads flanked by steep embankments that seemed to vanish into the valleys below, marking a picturesque

yet interesting route. As we continued, our journey took us through Grahamstown and onward to Bathurst, followed by Port Alfred. The final leg of our adventure brought us to Noel's farm, located approximately 12 kilometres outside of town. Just after crossing the Riet River, we arrived at our destination, where the serene landscape and the warm welcome perfectly capped our memorable journey through the Eastern Cape.

Our late departure and two-day excursion meant that we were

among the last to arrive, but just in time for the first member gathering that Noel had organized. The festivities took place around the warm embrace of a crackling fire, creating a magical atmosphere. It was a moment of true camaraderie, as LROC members from various locations gathered to celebrate the spirit of Land Rover ownership and the incredible lifestyle it enables. This evening underscored the deep connections and shared passions that define our community, making the journey not just a trip, but a significant reunion of friends and enthusiasts.

by one to their respective tents, adventure trailers, or to rooms that Noel had arranged for their stay. This vibrant gathering not only set the tone for the week but also reinforced the bonds within our community.

Monday's agenda had us converging on a dedicated section of the farm utilized by Raising Hope Horse Interaction. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for special needs children to interact with and ride horses within a specially equipped paddock. Designed for accessibility, the area ensures that children can easily approach and engage with the horses in a controlled setting. This thoughtful arrangement allows these young riders to safely connect with the horses, ensuring a positive and secure experience for all involved.

But the experience at Raising Hope Horse Interaction extends beyond simply sitting on a horse—it can be much more dynamic, as I discovered. The organizers and volunteers actively assist the children in learning equestrian tricks, adding an exhilarating dimension to the experience for those who desire it. My

The week's schedule of activities had been meticulously planned by Noel, and amidst the evening's banter, laughter, and singing, we discussed the final details of what promised to be a jam-packed week. The array of activities ranged from horseback riding and beach walks to excursions and visits to nearby game reserves—each designed to offer a rich tapestry of experiences. The fun and camaraderie of the evening extended well into the night, as Land Rover owners shared stories and enjoyed each other's company. Gradually, as the night wore on, members retired one

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own attempt at trick riding began with a jump onto the 'steel horse'—a secured metal drum used for practicing trick manoeuvres. It quickly became apparent that despite my enthusiasm, I was not destined to become an equestrian trick riding star. This light-hearted moment underscored the joy and challenge of trying something new, even if it ends with a few laughs at my expense.

After our engaging experience with Raising Hope Horse Interaction, we embarked on an adventurous hike through the sand dune forests that serve as a natural barrier between the beach and the expansive wilderness now converted into ideal grazing land for cattle. As we meandered along the path, the hidden gems of these forests were revealed to us, enriched by deep-rooted knowledge shared generously by Noel, his brother Norman, and his sister-in-law Gail. Their insights into the area's flora, fauna, and history transformed our hike into a captivating exploration, highlighting the natural beauty and ecological significance of this unique landscape.


As we pressed on, I was once again mesmerized by the sight of fellow member Chaz blazing a trail at the front of the group. My first encounter with this dynamic phenomenon was earlier in the year during our hike in the forests at Kosi Bay. Those who recall the article about the Turtle Experience may remember Chaz, a seasoned explorer who has walked this glorious earth for many years. True to form, he was again leading the way, driven by a fervent desire to be the first to encounter and relish the splendours of the trail. His enthusiasm and vigour added an infectious energy to our adventure, motivating us all to appreciate the journey even more."

Those familiar with 

the Eastern Cape will understand the rationale for the extensive wind farms in this region, as the wind here makes its presence felt, intertwining with the adventures it hosts. After a brief respite in the shelter of the milkwood forests, our hike emerged onto the edge of the beach, where members were presented with a choice for their return path. One route skirted the shoreline, offering a shorter but intensely windy walk back. The alternative delved back into the forest, meandering down the dunes towards the open fields that, I presume, were once grazed by cattle. The foliage along this second route provided some shelter from the wind, though 'shelter' is a relative term when compared to the exposed beachfront.

Michelle and I chose the inland route, which led us back into the enchanting forests. We meandered down the dune, descending to the flat expanses of the fields. This path, lined with the tranquil beauty of nature, guided us as we turned and made our way back to the campgrounds. This quieter, more sheltered trail allowed us to reflect on the day's adventures and savor the serene ending to our hike.

While the week's activities had been thoughtfully crafted by Noel for our ongoing enjoyment, the schedule was not a relentless pursuit. There was ample opportunity for members to gather and share thrilling stories of past and present adventures. In particular, the evening braais became the communal heart of our meetups, where stories and laughter mingled freely in the air. As is often the case when Land Rover enthusiasts unite, these moments were magical, reinforcing the unique bond within our community.

For me, the real adventure began on 




day two. The itinerary was brimming with 4x4 driving opportunities, starting with the Penny's Hook drive to Bathurst. Here, a convoy of fellow Land Rover enthusiasts from the surrounding areas gathered, setting the stage for what was to come. We then embarked on a magnificent drive through the Common Area, leading us towards Poor Man's Game Drive—a local treasure not widely known outside the community. This route offered not just challenging driving conditions but also spectacular views, encapsulating the essence of what it means to explore with a Land Rover.

Having not refuelled since arriving in Port Alfred, I opted to avoid the potential stress of navigating the trails with an ever-dwindling diesel supply. Michelle and I, along with Norman, decided to head out a bit earlier than the rest of the group. We made a quick stop at the local co-op to top off the diesel tank, ensuring we were well-prepared for the day's adventures. Afterward, we continued on to Bathurst where we rejoined our party, gathering together for an early morning coffee before embarking on the day's exciting activities.

The convergence of 

all the Land Rovers on the small town of Bathurst certainly caused quite a stir. Bathurst remains a quintessential 'one street' town, ensconced in the natural beauty of the Eastern Cape bush, radiating a rustic charm that is simply too palpable to ignore. Although time seems to move slowly here, the town has become a magnet for a diverse crowd including artists seeking inspiration, individuals yearning for a more peaceful lifestyle, academics, and retirees, all drawn by its unique ambiance and slower pace of life.

As more and more Land Rovers rolled into Bathurst, the residents were swiftly introduced to the camaraderie, enthusiasm, and liveliness of Land Rover lovers. We gathered, bustling and lively, at a local coffee shop, hustling for morning coffees and cappuccinos. That bond of friendship that so effortlessly forms among Land Rover enthusiasts is always a sight to behold. Our vehicles represent more than just a mode of transportation; they signify a distinctive lifestyle that fosters easy connections among those who share this passion.

After savouring our morning coffees, it was 

time to venture into the mountains, guided by our fellow local enthusiasts, Patrick and John. They introduced us to the magical trails and hidden gems known only to those who tread these paths regularly. For me, the Eastern Cape continues to embody the quintessential African adventurous spirit. I am truly delighted that I seized the opportunity to explore this majestic place. The experience reinforced the unique allure that this region holds, making every moment spent here a cherished memory. It wasn't long before our convoy was fully immersed in the adventure, navigating through man-made obstacles at a local quarry and slicing our way through dense thorn bush. Armed with machetes, axes, and saws, we painstakingly cleared our path. I understand that such rugged experiences might not be everyone's idea of an adventure, but for me, they epitomize the very essence of the adventurous lifestyle I cherish. The connection I feel to this lifestyle is formidable, and sharing these experiences with fellow enthusiasts who have similar outlooks is always profoundly rewarding. Each moment spent tackling these challenges reinforces our

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bonds and deepens our appreciation for the wild beauty around us.

Clearing the dense bush inevitably led to delays, impacting the schedule for the rest of the day. Particularly, we had planned to meet fellow club members from our Port Elizabeth chapter along the route. As soon as our trail reconnected with the relative ease of the dirt road, our convoy seized the opportunity to divert onto a sandy road. This decision allowed us to make up some time, opting for the more convenient route to ensure we could meet our fellow enthusiasts as planned. This change, though unexpected, was a necessary adjustment to reasonably maintain the day's agenda and continue our adventure smoothly.

While the drive became easier, the scenery grew increasingly spectacular as our convoy of Land Rovers delved deeper into the valleys and mountains surrounding Bathurst, en route to the picturesque Poor Man's Game Drive. This local treasure, nestled in the heart of the region, offered breathtaking views at every turn, captivating us with its rugged beauty. As our Landys wound their way through this pristine landscape, the sheer beauty of the area served as a vivid reminder of why we cherish these adventures and the opportunities they present to explore such untouched natural wonders.



The Kowie River presented an ideal spot for an impromptu dip, its refreshing waters providing a welcome respite from the midday heat. I was the first to plunge in, but it wasn't long before a stream of fellow Land Rover owners followed suit, each revelling in the cool embrace of the river. This spontaneous stop became a delightful interlude, as everyone enjoyed the natural amnesty the river offered, allowing us a moment to relax and rejuvenate before continuing our journey.

With our spirits rejuvenated from the refreshing dip in the Kowie River, those of us who had taken the plunge made our way back to the riverbank. After drying off and dressing, our convoy regrouped and set off once more, continuing our journey towards the Poor Man's Game Drive. This brief but invigorating stop at the river was just what we needed to energize us for the adventures that lay ahead on the scenic route that awaited our exploration.

The series of spontaneous moments throughout our journey necessitated some adjustments to our plans. Noel adeptly modified our lunch reservation at Kenton-on-Sea, transforming it into an early dinner. This change in schedule was a testament to the tremendous fun we were having on the trail. The flexibility to adapt our plans not only accommodated our



leisurely pace but also highlighted the sheer enjoyment that pervaded our adventure, ensuring that every unexpected stop contributed to a richer, more memorable experience.

It was just before we turned onto the track affectionately known as the Poor Man's Game Drive that we encountered fellow LROC members from our Port Elizabeth Chapter. They had made the journey to join us for the drive and to spend a night or two camping together. This timely meeting underscored the sense of community within our club, as these members travelled specifically to share in the adventure and camaraderie that such outings invariably promise.

Poor Man's Game Drive is a spectacular trail, nestled alongside Big 5 game reserves that offer remarkable wildlife sightings. While the tributary roads branching off this main route are inaccessible to the public, the trail itself provides a breathtaking drive through pristine landscapes. This route allows for an array of wildlife encounters, giving participants a taste of the area's rich biodiversity without the need for access to the restricted areas. The drive along Poor Man's Game Drive is truly a highlight, showcasing the natural beauty and wildlife diversity that this region is known for.



Noel had meticulously chosen the bridge over the Boesmansriver as the perfect spot for our convoy to pause for official celebrations and photographs. This carefully curated stop was not only about capturing the stunning scenery but also celebrating the incredible access our Land Rovers provide to such breathtaking environments and the lasting friendships forged during these journeys. Gathered there, amid the natural beauty, we commemorated the essence of what it means to be part of this adventurous community.

Yet, the trail had more secrets to reveal. Shortly after departing from our picturesque picnic spot at the Boesmansriver bridge, we encountered an awesome muddy stretch that promised to be an idyllic setting for capturing fantastic photos and videos. This section of the trail offered us the perfect opportunity to showcase our Land Rovers—and their owners—at their best, reveling in the excitement. The muddy trail became a spontaneous backdrop for recording memorable moments of joy and adventure, truly highlighting the thrill that comes with owning and driving these rugged vehicles.

Typically, I find myself capturing these moments solo, but on this trip, I was accompanied by John Yazbeck, his wife, and



their children, who eagerly recorded videos and snapped photos of the Land Rovers plowing through the mud. Unbeknownst to me at the time, John is also an avid Instagram enthusiast. Just a few months earlier, we had connected on the platform without realizing that we would soon meet in person on this adventure. His family's enthusiasm for capturing the action added a new dimension to the experience, as they documented every thrilling pass through the muddy trails.

The thrill I get from playing in the mud—whether it's driving through it in my Landy or capturing photos of others tackling the challenge—is simply indescribable. There's something about these moments that brings out the child in you, a carefree joy where worries are forgotten, and only the exhilaration of untamed fun remains. It's this feeling that makes every muddy trail an adventure, a chance to reconnect with that boundless, playful spirit.

As the day pressed on and each Land Rover wore its well-earned coat of mud, it became clear that we needed to pick up the pace to reach our next destination. Our aim was to arrive, albeit fashionably late, at a charming pizza restaurant perched on the cliffs overlooking the sea at Kenton-on-Sea. The

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promise of good food and stunning ocean views was the perfect incentive to press onward, capping off a day filled with adventure and camaraderie.

After a long, exhilarating day out on the trail, the combination of good food, refreshing drinks, and great company was exactly what we all needed. Some local club members, unable to join us for the full day's drive due to work commitments, made the effort to join us for what had turned into an early dinner. As the evening unfolded, members gradually started to make their way home, until only Michelle, Athol, and I remained, sharing jokes and stories that kept us laughing well into the night. Eventually, we too decided it was time to head back to camp, content and fulfilled by a day well spent.

Unfortunately, an unplanned and unwelcome work interruption kept me from joining Wednesday's activities, but as soon as I reconnected with the group that evening at the famous Pig and Whistle for delectable steaks and drinks, I was fully caught up on the day's adventures. The team regaled me with tales of non-

stop entertainment, from exhilarating horse rides to scenic visits at sawmills and historic 1820 settler churches. It was clear that those who participated had experienced a memorable day exploring the region's rich offerings.

The Pig and Whistle is a truly unique experience. As the oldest continuously running pub in South Africa, it boasts an incredible history stretching back nearly 200 years. Steeped in heritage, the pub has likely witnessed countless tales of adventure and the forging of friendships over the decades. There's something magical about sitting in such an iconic establishment, imagining the stories shared and bonds created over a cold one. It's a place where past and present blend seamlessly, adding a rich layer to any visit.

Thursday was shaping up to be a more relaxed day, with a visit to Addo Elephant Park as the main event. This majestic park, just a stone's throw from Port Elizabeth, lay about an hour and a half from our location. For many local participants, the allure of Addo was somewhat tempered

by familiarity, but not for Michelle and me. Eager to explore this renowned park, we decided to make the journey, excited by the chance to experience its grandeur and encounter its famed wildlife.

I am incredibly glad we made the trip, as it turned out to be a truly memorable experience filled with remarkable sightings. Just five kilometers into the park, we encountered two male lions resting close to the road—a thrilling start to the day. From there, the adventure continued with fantastic views of antelope, elephants, and an array of vibrant birdlife that flourishes in the park. For me, this is one of Africa's most profound gifts: a deep connection to the natural world, a bond that has faded in many other parts of the globe. It's a treasure that we, as Africans, should strive to protect and cherish as we continue our journey, ensuring future generations can share in this extraordinary legacy.

Our journey back from Addo meant that we once again arrived late for dinner that evening. During the return drive

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to the farm, Michelle and I decided we wanted to explore a different route back, inspired by a suggestion from Athol the previous evening. This plan meant we would join in on the initial activities scheduled for Friday, with a midday departure set for East London to begin our alternate route home.

Friday started with a bang! Given our plan to depart early, Michelle and I spent the first part of the morning packing gear into the Landy. Loading up a Defender 90 is much like a game of Tetris—requiring a clear head and plenty of energy to fit everything just right. After a slight delay of about an hour, we joined the rest of the group at the Bathurst Agricultural Museum. There, we caught a fascinating glimpse into the lives, activities, and tools of a bygone era, a time when this region was considered untamed frontier. Ox wagons once traversed these wildlands just as our Landys do today, making for a powerful connection to history.

It was a fantastic way to conclude our Port Alfred experience. A few other members shared the idea of heading home a bit earlier, so as the museum tour wrapped up, it became time to say farewell to the new friends we had made on this unforgettable journey. Parting ways was bittersweet, but each farewell carried the promise of future adventures and the enduring bonds that trips like these forge among Land Rover enthusiasts.

With farewells exchanged, Michelle and I set off toward the coastal road by Port Alfred, continuing onward to East London before heading inland to Queenstown, where we planned to spend the night. The following day, we embarked on a scenic route towards Gauteng, passing through Aliwal North, Ladybrand, and Fouriesburg. After another overnight stop, we made the final leg of

our journey home, each mile filled with reflections on an incredible adventure and the remarkable landscapes we had been privileged to explore.

This was truly a majestic experience. My heartfelt thanks go to fellow club member Noel Andrews for organizing and hosting such a remarkable journey. It's experiences like these that forge deep bonds among Landy owners and create a lifestyle of adventure that few are fortunate enough to embrace. Being part of this unique community is a privilege, and trips like this remind us of the shared passion that defines the Land Rover spirit.

written by
Clint Mason



To enhance our communication and engage more effectively with members, the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa (LROC) is excited to announce a significant evolution in our digital interaction platform. Recognizing the need for a more structured approach, we have decided to consolidate all existing WhatsApp groups into a single, cohesive LROC WhatsApp Community. This transition, scheduled for completion by November 2024, is designed to simplify how members stay informed and connected, with full implementation set for January 2025. This new platform will streamline communications, offering a more efficient and inclusive way for members to interact.

Our current use of multiple WhatsApp groups has been instrumental in fostering dynamic exchanges and robust information sharing. However, as our membership diversifies and our communication needs become more complex, the challenges of managing multiple groups have grown. Members have reported difficulties in tracking conversations and critical updates, which occasionally get lost in the flurry of messages. Moreover, the decentralized nature of our current system means that not all members receive the same information simultaneously, leading to disparities in communication. The Executive Committee has extensively deliberated on how to

overcome these challenges, resulting in the decision to transition to a WhatsApp Community. This platform will not only centralize communications, reducing redundancies and the potential for miscommunication but also enhance the overall member experience. Features of the WhatsApp Community will include organized discussions by topic, maintained archives of important messages, and more effective management of communication flows, ensuring that our club remains inclusive and well-coordinated.

The benefits of migrating to a WhatsApp Community are clear and directly address the needs of our club. The improved organization of communications through the community structure allows for messages to be categorized into specific channels. This makes it easier for members to follow topics relevant to their interests and ensures quick access to important club announcements. By reducing clutter and preventing the loss of crucial information in general chatter, the new system will significantly enhance how members receive and interact with club communications.

Moreover, the centralized community platform will allow us to reach members more efficiently. Uniformity in the messages delivered will foster a more inclusive environment, with members benefiting from real-time updates on club activities, events, and important notices.

The community format also supports better moderation and management of discussions, promoting a respectful and constructive dialogue that aligns with the club's values and objectives.

As we approach the migration to the unified WhatsApp Community, it is crucial that all members consider and adhere to the expectations regarding their engagement and conduct within this new platform. The existing Club policies governing the use of our WhatsApp channels will continue to apply. This includes respecting all guidelines for communication, privacy, and interactions that have been established to ensure a positive and productive environment for all members. Each member's responsibility is to contribute constructively to discussions, maintaining the confidentiality of shared information, and using the platform primarily for club-related communications.


We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible and will provide continuous updates and support throughout the migration process. We believe that the LROC WhatsApp Community will not only streamline communication but also strengthen the ties within our club, making it a more vibrant and engaged community. We encourage all members to get involved, embrace the new platform, and help us shape a more connected LROC.

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

Joost Bunk from Pretoria driving a 2011 Defender Puma 2.4

LROC Digital

LROC Digital channels & resources



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LROC WhatsApp Group Guidelines

- Be Respectful
- Stay on Topic
- Contribute Constructively
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- Avoid Forwarding Misinformation
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- Resolve Conflicts Privately
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Aligning Membership Fees and Benefits for 2025

A Strategic Overview by the Executive Committee



As we approach the cusp of 2025, the Exco has undertaken a thorough evaluation of the Club's financial and operational performance over the past year. This assessment is crucial not only in gauging our successes and areas for improvement but also in ensuring that we continue to deliver intrinsic value to all our members in the coming year.

As a non-profit, dedicated to serving its members, our Club meticulously determines membership fees to ensure they sufficiently cover the benefits our members expect and value. This process is grounded in fundamental principles such as economies of scale, inflation trends, actual costs, and our historical financial performance. Additionally, by forecasting membership numbers, we can effectively gauge the collective buying power. This comprehensive assessment helps us set a membership fee that not only meets the cashflow requirements but also fulfills our commitment to delivering the promised benefits to *every* member.

To the best of their ability, the Executive Team strives to ensure that the membership fees collected each year are aptly calibrated 

to cover the delivery of member benefits for the forthcoming year, aiming for a zero balance by year-end. Members who carried forward their membership from 2023 to 2024 might remember the extensive analysis and discussions regarding the fee increase between these years. The Executive Team engaged in rigorous debates, resulting in the determination of the fee only in December 2023.

Principally, the fee increases between the aforementioned years necessitated additional consideration to account for and compensate for the strategic decision made during the COVID period to maintain minimal fee increases. This decision, while necessary, resulted in a reduction in delivered benefits. The reinstatement of these benefits is crucial for the Club as it strives to ensure territory-wide delivery of services and maintain value for all membership classifications.

I am pleased to report that the thorough process undertaken in 2023 and the resulting membership fees have led to an accurately projected forecast for the Club throughout 2024. It is safe to assume that the membership fee correction implemented  has successfully 


realigned the fees with the provision of Club benefits. Additionally, the principal assumptions and strategies employed to ensure effective benefit delivery to all members, irrespective of their location, have proven effective.

With this determination now firmly established, the process of setting membership fees returns to a more traditional approach, as does the determination of benefits to be delivered over the forthcoming year. This method ensures that both the structure of fees and the scope of benefits are tailored to meet the evolving needs and expectations of our members.

I am pleased to announce that after careful deliberation, the determination of 2025 membership fees is once again, more closely aligned with inflation, coupled with estimations of the achievable membership count over the period. This assessment resulted in the adoption of a 5% increase to membership fees, adjusting the annual membership fees from R700 in 2024 to R735 (*Pensioners increase from R615 to R645) in 2025.

Once again, the Executive Committee 

has carefully evaluated various payment strategies to ensure alignment between the payment of fees and the financial positions of our members. The introduction of a 3-year Club Membership Fee package, along with a monthly Debit Order Facility in 2024, received support. As a result, these options will continue to be integral components of the 2025 membership fee strategy, albeit with minor adjustments based on the actual experiences gathered in 2024.

While the principle of a debit order type facility remains important for 2025, a necessary review has been prompted by the costs associated with providing such a service versus its adoption rate. Although the Executive Team is keen to continue offering a monthly payment option for fees, the monthly costs incurred from the debit order service 

are not in line with its current use. Therefore, members interested in utilizing a monthly membership fee payment are encouraged to make an application through our Club Administrator, Madeleine Zwaneveld, so that suitable arrangements can be made.

As we move forward, the Executive Committee remains dedicated to ensuring that our Club not only meets but exceeds the expectations of its members. We are committed to continuous improvement and adaptation of our membership strategies to serve you better. We encourage all members to engage with us and share your feedback, as it is invaluable in shaping the future of our club. Together, let's make 2025 another remarkable year for our community.

2025 Membership Fees

Membership Fee - annual

R 735 (*Pensioner R645)

Membership Fee - 3 year prefunded

R 2205 (*Pensioner R1935)

* Pensioners / Pensioner: 60+




Progress Report: LandRoving relaunch

For those who have been closely following the periodic progress reports for LandRoving, our club's glossy magazine brimming with unmistakable tales of excitement and adventure, you will have noticed that our efforts to relaunch the magazine kicked off in mid-2024.

This strategic focus allows LandRoving to be produced without placing a financial burden on the Club's resources, ensuring that our cherished publication can continue to captivate and inform our members while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

While these initial efforts have proven successful, attracting considerable interest, 2024 has also been a year marked by a tremendously active and adventurous events schedule. This has stretched our limited number of volunteers, who have been tasked with both delivering the Club's committed plans and activities and developing strategies intended to revitalize our publication.

Unfortunately, efforts to relaunch the magazine have taken a back seat, resulting in delays. While this is disappointing, especially considering that the magazine is a key component of our territory-wide value proposition, we remain committed to its revival. The magazine, long regarded as one of the Club's treasures, is crucial for delivering extensive value to our members across regions.

With the majority of 

the 2024 events data now compiled, the successes and nuances of this year's Events Calendar are shaping our 2025 schedule. These insights will enable us to allocate resources more effectively, providing renewed focus on the relaunch of the publication. Our aim is to ensure that while our events continue to thrill and engage, our magazine also regains its esteemed place as a cornerstone of our Club's culture.

It is our intent that this strategic shift will inject renewed energy into the project. Although it remains unlikely that we will see a publication before the end of 2024, we are committed to reengaging and delivering on our promise early in 2025. We aim to start the new year with a revitalized magazine that fulfils our longstanding commitment to providing exceptional value to our members.

While we share in the disappointment of the delay, we wish to reassure all members that our commitment to delivering benefits across our entire territory remains a paramount focus for the committee—a responsibility we take very seriously. We are eagerly anticipating the magazine's revival and will continue to provide progress reports in the newsletter to ensure that everyone stays well-informed.

Future Events

Because owning a Landy means there is always something to look forward to!

LROC Event

Trail Blaze - November 2024



From:

Fri, 01 Nov 2024 16:00

To:

Sun, 03 Nov 2024 16:00

Hosted By:

Clint Mason

Venue:

Dimalachite River Lodge
and Berakah Eco Trail

Regrettably, we must inform you that the Trail Blaze Event originally scheduled for November 2024 at Dimalachite River Lodge and Berakah Eco Trail has been cancelled due to not securing the minimum number of participants required.

We understand this is disappointing news for those who were looking forward to the event, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused. While we won't be proceeding with the event as planned, we are actively exploring alternative options for future club events and will keep you updated.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support of the Land Rover Owners Club. Stay tuned for updates on other upcoming activities and adventures! 

LROC Event

Loskop Weekend Away 2024



From:

Fri, 08 Nov 2024 12:00

To:

Sun, 10 Nov 2024 12:00

Hosted By:

Attie Smit

Venue:

Seekoeigat Campsite

Payment:

Cash on arrival

Gear up for an unforgettable weekend of fun, adventure, and camaraderie at Seekoeigat, one of the top spots for LROC members! On Saturday morning, we'll kick off with an exciting convoy, departing at 08:00 sharp to tackle the thrilling Kruisriver 4x4 trail. Pack a picnic basket and prepare for a well-earned lunch break in the great outdoors. After conquering the trail, we'll head back to camp by 14:00, but feel free to enjoy the return journey at your own pace.

Not feeling up for off-roading? No problem! You can explore the nearby Loskop Nature Reserve or simply unwind and make the most of the fantastic facilities at the camp. Sunday is all about leisure, so whether you're recharging or making the most of nature, the day is yours!

As we'll be camping right alongside the beautiful Elephants River, be sure to bring mosquito repellent to stay protected. Camping fees will be collected by the owner upon arrival, and the trail fees for the Kruisriver drive will be collected on Saturday morning. Please remember, unless you're planning to make a donation, camping 

fees should be paid directly to the owner—not to LROC!

Keep an eye out for a final email with the gate code and other important details closer to the event.

Please note that the campsite is on the western bank of the river, so don't let your GPS steer you toward the eastern side!

Costs:

There are 3 x 2-bed bungalows @ R500.00 per night (fridge but no bedding).

Camping @ R250.00 per night for a campsite for 4 plus R50.00 pppn for an additional person(s) with a maximum of 6 per campsite.

The fees for the drive will be collected on Saturday morning before we depart. At the time of writing, we are awaiting the farmer's final decision regarding the fee. Historically, the fees for the drive have been donated to an old age home in Marble Hall, and if the owner grants us free access, this tradition will continue. The final arrangements will be confirmed in our last communication to those who have booked.

LROC Event

LROC Christmas Party 2024



From:

Sat, 23 Nov 2024 09:00

To:

Sun, 24 Nov 2024 15:00

Hosted By:

Rori Meanwell

continued on Page 10...

SAVE THE DATE

From:
Sat, 23 Nov 2024 09:00
To:
Sun, 24 Nov 2024 15:00
Hosted By:
Rori Meanwell

We regret to inform you that the planned year-end celebration at Wagondrift has been cancelled due to insufficient interest. While we were excited to gather with our members and celebrate the year in true LROC fashion, we must ensure that our events meet the participation levels needed to create a meaningful experience for everyone involved.


We understand that this news may come as a disappointment to those who were looking forward to the event. Please know that the Executive Team is committed to planning future gatherings that cater to the interests and availability of our members. We value your enthusiasm and support and will continue to seek opportunities to connect and celebrate together as a community.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you at future LROC events.

SAVE THE DATE

Prepare for another unforgettable year-end celebration in true LROC fashion!

Unfortunately, our preferred venue, Wagondrift, is fully booked for the weekend of 30 November to 01 December. However, we have great news! There is availability across all accommodation options, including camping, chalets, and adventure tents, for the weekend prior.

Wagondrift offers the perfect setting for a splendid gathering, catering to all preferences. Whether you choose to camp under the stars, cozy up in a chalet, or experience the unique 

adventure tents, the venue promises a relaxed environment complete with pools and the serene calm of the bushveld.

Given these circumstances, the Executive Team has decided to move the event forward by one week to ensure all members can join in the festivities. This change allows us to accommodate everyone in the style they prefer without missing out on what is sure to be a highlight of our social calendar.

We look forward to celebrating the year's end with you in style and comfort. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

Event Reports

Because owning a Landy means we are doing something worth writing about!

LROC Event

Landys and Lattes - October 2024




Date:
21 September 2024
Hosted By:
Simon Meanwell
Venue:
GG's Cafe, Home of the Jozi Waffle

The success of the LROC Landys and Lattes event in the Gauteng region is unmistakable, becoming a firm favorite among many members. With 38 Land Rovers converging on GG's Café, the stage was set for a day filled with laughter, great food, and top-notch coffee. The excitement was palpable as Landy owners gathered, each vehicle a testament to adventure and resilience.

Host and owner Mike had made special arrangements for our group, ensuring private parking adjacent to the restaurant. By mid-morning, the 38 Land Rovers were proudly displayed in the veld, creating a spectacular sight that drew the attention of the entire area. With over 40 members in attendance, GG's Café had to spring into action, bringing in additional tables and chairs to accommodate the crowd.

GG's Café, a charming restaurant nestled in the heart of Kyalami, is renowned as the Home of the Jozi Waffle. Its warm ambiance and delectable menu provided the perfect backdrop for a gathering that was as vibrant as the Land Rovers parked outside.

The atmosphere was alive with stories 

of exploration and camaraderie as members shared tales of their travels and the friendships forged over years of Land Rover ownership. Each conversation carried the spirit of adventure that is so integral to being part of the LROC—a reminder that owning a Land Rover is not just about the vehicle; it's about the lifestyle, the stories, and the community it creates. Soon, orders for breakfast, waffles, coffees, and drinks were placed, and the energy and joy continued to grow.

The gathering drew attention from passersby, including visitors from the nearby Horse Riding Derby, the Karate Club, and casual onlookers who stopped to take photos of the impressive lineup of Land Rovers. One couldn't help but wonder if there's a collective name for such a gathering of Land Rovers, akin to a parliament of owls.

Landys and Lattes is one of the few LROC events open to all Land Rover owners, making it an inclusive and welcoming experience. For those who haven't yet attended, why not make the next Landys and Lattes your first? Bring your Landy buddies along and join us in celebrating the shared passion for these remarkable machines. It's always a joy to connect with the broader Landy community and revel in the stories, laughter, and shared adventures that define us.

Members Business Advertisements

Sometimes your destination cannot be reached in a Land Rover; on these occasions contact BOARDING PASS, the professional travel consultants. Our staff will research and arrange your flights/accommodation and obtain the best possible fares. For more information, contact Alan Farthing on 082-551-0079 or alan@boardingpass.co.za or desiree@boardingpass.co.za. Why rock and roll when you can glide?

For all your Two-Way-Radio and Communication Requirements, please contact ROSH Electronics cc. Contact Name: Romeo Nardini, Tel 011-476-4156, Fax 011 476-1787, Cell 082-552-4440, and email roshelec@global.co.za.

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If you are passionate about Land Rovers and nature, you will want to do the Badshoek Experience. Visit www.badshoek.co.za to learn more. We have 7 Land Rovers from Series 1 to 110 for your enjoyment.

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