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LROC NEWS

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Refining the Journey

An updated Vision for a Better Served 2025

As we near the end of another adventure-filled year for the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa (LROC), the Executive Committee is already focused on laying the foundation for an even more exciting and rewarding 2025.

The insights and lessons learned throughout 2024 have been invaluable, and over the coming months, these will be applied to ensure that the

Club continues to grow, with better service to its ever-growing membership. More than just delivering on promises, we are refining our methods to enhance member satisfaction and engagement, ensuring that each experience with the Club resonates even more deeply with the values we hold dear.

Reflecting on 2024, the Executive Committee set two major objectives. The first was to ensure that the benefits of

membership reached all members, irrespective of their geographical location. The second was to deliver an adventurous and diverse events calendar that would reignite the LROC's long-standing spirit of exploration. I am pleased to report that both of these goals were met, though they were not without their challenges. The successes we've achieved have provided valuable insights into where we can improve, paving the way for what we believe will be

an exceptional 2025.

Our Club Administrator, Madeleine Zwaneveld, has played a key role in tracking the delivery of various member benefits. From stickers and wall planners to the eagerly anticipated Special Edition First Aid Kit (a special for renewing 2023-2024 members), these items have reached members through a well-organized combination of event-based handouts,

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Committee and Chapter distributions, and the PUDO delivery network. These logistics have allowed us to extend our reach, ensuring that members, regardless of where they are located, receive the full spectrum of their benefits. This process has highlighted the importance of efficient and scalable systems as we continue to grow, and it serves as a key area for refinement in the coming year.

While the physical delivery of benefits is a vital part of membership, 2024 was also marked by an exceptional range of events that spanned the entirety of the Club's adventurous ethos. We explored not only the scenic beauty of South Africa but also ventured across borders into foreign terrain, with our trusty Land Rovers leading the way. The year was filled with cross-border trips, working getaways, and long weekend escapes that kept the spirit of adventure alive. From thrilling trail drives to casual "Landys and Lattes" meetups, the latter having grown immensely popular among our Gauteng members, the events calendar in 2024 had something for everyone. These gatherings have strengthened the bond among

members and underscored the Club's mission of fostering camaraderie and a shared love for off-road exploration.

However, even in the face of such success, we recognize that there is always room for improvement. Extensive record-keeping and event feedback have provided the Executive Committee with a clearer view of where adjustments can be made. The insights gained this year have shown us that while we've largely delivered on our commitments, there are opportunities to enhance the overall member experience even further. These insights will shape our approach in 2025, ensuring that we not only meet but exceed the expectations of our members.

One of the key areas of focus moving forward will be the development of simpler, more streamlined processes and procedures. Our Club thrives on the contributions of volunteers—people who generously give their time, skills, and resources at no cost to the organization. It is therefore imperative that the systems we implement are easy to navigate and execute. We are committed to designing workflows that allow

our volunteers to focus on what they do best, without being bogged down by unnecessary administrative burdens. By ensuring that these processes are efficient and practical, we will be better positioned to maintain and expand the Club's offerings without overwhelming our dedicated volunteers.

Over the next few months, the Executive Committee will devote time to refining both new and existing procedures. These efforts will focus on making every aspect of Club operations simpler and more effective, allowing us to build on the successes of 2024. We will also pay special attention to areas that may have fallen outside of this year's primary objectives, aligning them with our broader strategic vision for 2025.

One of the key areas earmarked for improvement is communication. Keeping members informed and engaged is essential to the long-term health of the Club, and we recognize that there are multiple ways to enhance our communication channels. From social media and WhatsApp groups to newsletters and email distribution lists, we will be refining our

approach to ensure that information is readily accessible and that members feel connected to the Club, no matter where they are.

In addition to improving our communication channels, we will also be taking a closer look at our events calendar for 2025. By analyzing participation and feedback from this year's events, we can ensure that our offerings align with member interests. The reintroduction of classic LROC events, such as Trials, has been a topic of discussion, and we are exploring ways to reestablish these as part of our event portfolio. Our goal is to offer a balanced mix of events that cater to both the seasoned adventurer and the casual enthusiast, providing something for everyone in the LROC community.

Another exciting development on the horizon is the opportunity to leverage the economies of scale afforded by our growing membership. As our numbers increase, so do the opportunities to negotiate better deals, secure exclusive benefits, and create partnerships that benefit all members. The power of a unified Club cannot be overstated, and we are committed to exploring every avenue to maximize these advantages.

While much of our focus has been on delivering member benefits in 2024, we are aware that there is always room for growth and improvement. We are particularly excited about the potential for enhancing the logistics of future benefit deliveries, building on the successes of this year while incorporating the lessons we've learned. Our goal is to ensure that all members, regardless of their location, feel the full benefit of their association with the Club.

A key part of our 2025 strategy will also involve closer

collaboration with our regional Chapters. The Executive Committee recognizes the importance of maintaining a territory-wide presence, ensuring that members in even the most remote locations remain connected to the Club and its benefits. We will be working to strengthen Chapter structures, offering them greater support and ensuring they have the tools they need to effectively engage with their local members. This approach will allow us to extend the Club's reach, offering all members, no matter where they are based, a consistent and meaningful experience.

Looking ahead, October, November, and December will be months of intense planning and reflection for the Executive Committee. Our focus will be on applying the insights gained in 2024 to make sure that 2025 is a year to remember. We are committed to delivering not only an extraordinary events calendar but also to improving the overall member experience. By enhancing communication, refining processes, and strengthening our regional Chapters, we aim to create a Club that is even more inclusive, adventurous, and rewarding.

As we prepare for what promises to be an exciting year ahead, we want to thank every member of the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa for their continued support. Together, we will make 2025 a year of growth, adventure, and unforgettable experiences.

written by
Clint Mason

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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



LROC WhatsApp Group Guidelines

- **Be Respectful**
- **Stay on Topic**
- **Contribute Constructively**
- **Practice Privacy**
- **Avoid Forwarding Misinformation**
- **Use Proper Etiquette**
- **Be Mindful of Notifications**
- **Resolve Conflicts Privately**
- **Engage Actively**
- **Follow Group Guidelines**

To download the LROC WhatsApp Group Participation Policy, use your mobile telephone camera to scan the QR Code.



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Future Events

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

LROC Event

Landys and Lattes - October 2024



From: Sat, 05 Oct 2024 09:00
To: Sat, 05 Oct 2024 14:00
Hosted By: Simon Meanwell
Venue: GG's Cafe, Home of the Jozi Waffle

Join us on Saturday, 5 October 2024, as we return to the charming atmosphere of GG's Café in Kyalami's horse country. Delight in the warmth and hospitality of our hosts, Urs and Linda Honegger, who have created a beloved local haven that combines rustic charm with culinary passion.

Savor the splendid atmosphere as you connect with fellow Land Rover enthusiasts in an environment that reflects the spirit of adventure and community. Indulge in delicious food that goes beyond the ordinary. From hearty meals to the renowned Jozi Waffle, crafted from an authentic Belgian recipe, every bite promises to be a memorable part of your day.

Make sure to treat yourself to GG's Café's awesome coffee, the perfect complement to their signature dish and a great way to toast to another great gathering of the Land Rover Owners. We look forward to enjoying this special day with you, filled with good food, great company, and unforgettable experiences. 

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

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

Eastern Cape Tour



Date:

21 September 2024

Hosted By:

Noël Andrews

Venue:

Port Alfred - Eastern Cape

As the first hints of spring teased the landscape, a spirited group of Land Rover enthusiasts from across the country embarked on a remarkable journey to the Eastern Cape. With some members hitting the road as early as the 19th of September 2024, excitement bubbled as we converged at the scenic farm of fellow member Noël Andrews, located just outside the charming coastal town of Port Alfred.

For the contingent from Gauteng, the adventure began the moment engines roared to life. Some chose the swift option of tackling the long drive in one day, while others savored the journey, breaking up the trip with overnight stops that allowed them to explore more of South Africa's hidden gems. Whether in the hustle of quick travel or the serenity of leisurely drives, the common destination remained the same—Andrews' picturesque farmstead. By the 22nd of September, all participants had arrived safely, despite the brisk Eastern Cape winds, ready to embrace the camaraderie and adventures awaiting us.

Noel, a gracious and generous host, had curated an incredible week of activities that showcased the best of the region. His

coastal farm became the basecamp for our band of Landy lovers, offering not only the perfect staging ground for exploration but also the warmth and hospitality that turned this event into something truly special. From the moment we settled in, it was clear we were in for an extraordinary time.

Evenings around the campfire became cherished moments, filled with laughter, storytelling, and the unmistakable sense of kinship that binds our Club together. One night, we ventured out to the historic Pig-and-Whistle, an iconic Eastern Cape establishment, where the atmosphere buzzed with nostalgia and charm. The days, however, were packed with activities that appealed to every sense of adventure. From the serene beauty of hiking under towering Milkwood trees in dune forests to exhilarating 4x4 routes through rugged valleys and mountains, the variety was endless. Horseback riding, museum tours, and educational beach walks along the pristine coastline added layers of richness to the experience, deepening our connection to the land and each other.

Of course, no Eastern Cape adventure would be complete without a visit to the nearby Addo Elephant Park. For many, this wildlife encounter was a highlight, offering a chance to witness these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat—a humbling and awe-inspiring moment that will remain etched in our memories.

What made this tour stand out was not only the spectacular landscapes and thrilling activities but the opportunity to reconnect with fellow Club members from across regions. It had been quite some time since such a diverse group of Land Rover enthusiasts gathered in one place, and the

sense of community was palpable. New friendships were forged, and old bonds strengthened as we navigated the trails, shared meals, and soaked in the sights and sounds of this remarkable part of South Africa.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Noël Andrews, whose dedication and meticulous planning ensured the event was a resounding success. His generosity extended beyond providing the farm as our base. With Noël's offer of affordable camping and chalet accommodation, every cent raised was donated to the hardworking staff who made sure we were well taken care of throughout the week. Their efforts did not go unnoticed, and the Club is deeply grateful for their contribution to our enjoyment.

For those who attended, the Eastern Cape Tour will be remembered as one of the standout events in our Club's calendar. From the breathtaking landscapes to the unwavering camaraderie, it was a testament to the spirit of adventure and friendship that defines the Land Rover Owners Club of Southern Africa. Here's to many more such gatherings, where the road is our canvas, and the journey is the masterpiece.

Members Business Advertisements

Coupling and uncoupling a trailer behind your Land Rover can be a pain, especially with the spare wheel always in the way. If you frequently suffer from damaged knuckles or need a solid mounting for a cycle rack, the Afri Trak tow hitch extender is the perfect solution. This 200mm hitch extension is engineered to be tough, ensuring your trailer can go anywhere your vehicle can. It features a "Y" shape design offering dual vehicle mounting surfaces, allowing for four chassis mounting bolts, which completely eliminate vertical movement. It can be mounted in a "high" tow ball position for off-road trailers or a "low" tow ball position for road trailers. Specifically designed for classic Land Rover Defenders, it fits most older Tdi/V8 and newer TD5/Puma models with South African factory-standard tow bars. Constructed of CNC cut 16mm solid mild steel and welded by an ISO certified engineering fabrication company (SANS ISO 3834 Part 2 certificate), it's powder-coated for superior corrosion protection. Priced at ZAR1950 (Incl VAT), excluding postage. Please contact Mike Ilsley at Afri Trak Adventures on 082 880 8695 or visit www.afritrak.co.za for more information.

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?

Rob Zwaneveld of The Beehouse is a passionate beekeeper who offers bee-friendly swarm removals at a fair cost, depending on the complexity of the removal, as well as hive maintenance. Our honey is unheated, untreated, undiluted, golden goodness, available from R100 per 500g bottle. Contact Rob on 083-653-5377.

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.

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.

Minuteman Press Edenvale is your go-to for all your business and personal printing needs. We offer canvas and large format poster prints, as well as full-color self-adhesive labels/stickers. Our business printing services include flyers, brochures, carbonised books, and business cards. For more information, please contact us at 011-453-4101.

LR Classic (member André Verster) hosts a 4x4 fun day at B'Sorah Trails on Saturday 12 October 2024. It is the same venue as the recent Outdoor and Adventure Expo in Broederstroom. We will enjoy driving the 4x4 obstacle course. Please send André an email by the latest end of September if you would like to participate in driving the 4x4 obstacle course – entry cost R100 per vehicle: andre@lrclassic.com

GREAT NEWS: The LandyFest is back with a BANG! Diarize the LandyFest for the weekend of 28 February 2025. Venue will be at B'Sorah Trails. Weekend camping, 4x4 obstacle course, Landy games – lots of prizes, food carts, craft beer, 4x4 drive-out, kids entertainment. More on the LandyFest in newsletters to follow, we will be adding the LandyFest data on the website soon: www.lrclassic.com, and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LRClassicSA>. Ticket sales will go online by 15 December 2024.