LANCE.

NEWSLETTER

Alias 'Letter from A-Broad'

Newsletter Number Seven

July/August 1985

Photographic Evidence of my last bear - nap, further details inside!!!

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 7 - July/August

Dear All

Well it is more than time that I put the fingers to the typewriter and spread the EO/HO word around the world again.

Can't say that life has got any less chaotic since you last heard from me - trips have been arriving back with amazing alacrity over the last couple of months. **CHRISTIE & RADAR** on 30th July, **DOT & IVAN & GEOFF ROY'S** Trans Africa via the Nile on 31st July, **DAVID WALKLEY** (finally!) on 14th August, **STEVE MORTIMER** on 28th August, **RENE MULLER** on 1st September and **LANCE THOMAS** on 3rd September, not to mention the Hong Kong charters which arrive and depart frequently! Well done all of you - most of the groups seem to have had a really good time. We've found this great new Spanish restuarant for the group meals but must confess that I am beginning to look like a paella so don't mind waiting till **GARY STRAND'S** arrival for the next one!!

A few changes have taken place in the office. **DAWN** is off in Corfu attempting to learn the finer arts of wind-surfing (as much wine as she can drink is provided by the tour company so this could prove difficult!!) and **CAROLINE**, our new recruit, has taken over the Asia Desk for the foreseable future as **DAWN** is sadly leaving us in December. I am off to sunnier but more tempestuous climes on 23rd September. Due to the present political situation in South Africa we decided that there might be quite a few people wanting to leave for good and what better way to go than overland with us so I am going down there to try and convince them of this and hope to scoop up a few northbound bookings - we need them believe me. Will also be there to oversee the 17th October South East Safari departure and the Great Safari departure on 23rd October and I will get down there just in time to wave goodbye to **SIMON BOON & ROBERT HALL.** So doesn't look like I will get too much of a suntan (might just have to go and check out Botswana for a few days though.....) So **DAWN** will be sitting here making sure **MR. SUTI** behaves himself..! I am back again on 1st November (if you don't hear from me again it means I didn't buy a big enough net and didn't get enough bookings!)

We had 28 days of continuous rain in August - the weathermen did finally confess that it was the worst summer on record..... but we are now being treated to an indian Summer - it was 80° yesterday..... long may it last....

We are slowly but surely moving into the electronic age back here in EOL. The computer, better known as the 'Beast' is churning out information in the Accounts Department and Cathy has just acquired an amazing looking word processor which comes with a screen which looks almost identical to my T.V. (it's probably just a good excuse to watch the kiddies programmes in the afternoon...!)

Just in case any of you missed the Test Scores - England re-gained the Ashes - some wonderful cricket and it was well-deserved (not that I am biased or anything!).

Our 'Bear' population has recently returned. We have both Ralph and Trev with us at the moment but this is only a temporary phase as Ralph will shortly be winging his way back to Africa to re-join the Animals - we figure they have earnt his company! And Trev is going on the South East Safari on 17th October. We do however have a more permanent edition (mainly because of his size) called Betram but even he gets out of the office. He is presently 'minding' Hulk (Top Deck's Asia Operations Manager) who is unfortunately in hospital as he has a tumour on his spine. But he is responding well to treatment and Betram assures us he is well on the road to recovery.

Well think that is it for this edition. Next Newsletter will be out in the middle of November - take care till then.

FRECKLE

A S I A

RENE MULLER & Q617 MPP Kathmandu to London 24th May 1985

RENE had a fairly trouble - free run since Esfahan apart from a few more minor problems with the truck which have since been remedied. **RENE & GROUP** were parted from the truck in Ostende as she was whisked away by Messrs **NORWOOD** and **BIDDLE** who took her on a week's promotional tour in Holland.
RENE arrived back in the U.K. at the beginning of September and tells he is looking forward to a 'rest' in the Workshop!! As you will see from a 'photo' later on in this Newsletter, the trip has done wonders for **RENE'S** waistline. Good to see you back **RENE.**

GARY (RED SHOES) STRAND & BVS 970 T, Kathmandu to London 23rd August 1985

GARY successfully ran the 21st July Kashmir and Ladakh trip for us - his main problems seem to have been the copious quantites of water that fell in Ladakh and the road giving way on the down convoy near Dras but with normal Strand-like efficiency, the Indian Army were coerced into helping BVS out of her precarious predicament and they were all on their way again.

GARY is now on his way home with the last EO trip out of Kathmandu this year. He is presently up in Srinagar. Unfortunately he wasn't able to get permits for the whole group to go through the Punjab so they will be overflying and **GARY** will be going through the border on the 23rd.

STEVE SATOW & SBH 441W, The Great Overland Encounter ex Kathmandu 30 August '85

STEVE & ANDY BAILLIE relocated SBH out to Kathmandu in just over 2 weeks and then **ANDY** sadly departed for New Zealand - sure we might see you again though **ANDY?!!** We hope so. **STEVE** tells that his co-driver through the Punjab will most probably be a new Zeland lass who drives 30 ton trucks and bites the heads off beer bottles.....!
One of **STEVE's** group members left in Delhi (some people have no stamina!!) having decided that his travelling companions were 'not quite his sort of people' .....
The rest of the group seem to be a good bunch so hope it goes well **PLOD.** He has recently left Delhi and is on his way up to Srinagar. He will also go through the border on the 23rd.

JAMES ALEXANDER & JNM 601V, London to Kathmandu 6th June, 1985

JAMES has just recently arrived in Kathmandu - on the 11th September. He met up with **TREVOR HOWARD** (of rafting fame) in Srinagar and gave him a lift to Kathmandu. Two of **JAMES'S** group members left the trip in Pakistan and were meant to re-join by Delhi but were unfortunate enough to be arrested and put in jail for a month supposedly for carrying offensive weapons - they had bought knives in northern Pakistan. The Canadian Embassy came to their rescue and they are both safely in Kathmandu.

JAMES will be helping the rafters get organised for the start of the new season in Kathmandu and will then be involved in short haul trips in Nepal and India.

MIKE (BEAR) EDWARDS & SVC 339H, London to Kathmandu 4th July 1985

As you know **MIKE** started this trip off with **DAVE HUNT** who then left him in Aqaba to join **BRIAN FELTOVICH (DAVE** is now well and truly ensconced in Egypt - more about him later). The trip seems to be going well and the link up between **LANCE** and **MIKE** for the swop-over of the GOE pax went like clockwork for the very first time!! Both trips arrived in Aqaba within half an hour of each other. Well it had to work once I suppose!! **MIKE** is presently up in Kashmir and is due into Kathmandu on the 9th October.

OLLY PHILLIPS & LLK 183K, London to Kathmandu 8th August 1985
OLLY had a short break back in the U.K. after his Kathmandu to London trip before heading out to Kathmandu again. From all reports the trip is going well so far. Last heard from the group in Amman on the 10th and he is due in Esfahan on the 28th.

BRUCE WATKINS & GLP 200J(Major Singh), London to Kathmandu 5th September, 1985

We managed to extract Bruce from the clutches of Kilimanjaro courtesy of Ethiopian Airlines in the nick of time for a very brief look at England and then off to Kathmandu. We had a great time scooping up last minute bookings for this trip - 3 in the last week and one just 2 days before departure (amazing what you can do with a big net...!) **BRUCE** is being joined by **KURT FRISCHE** in Istanbul who will be his trainee out to Kathmandu - not a lot **BRUCE** doesn't know about running trips **KURT** so should be a good training for you. **KURT** flew to Athens this morning as all the flights to Istanbul were full and will be making his own way to Istanbul to join **BRUCE. BRUCE** will be returning to New Zealand at the end of this trip - we'll certainly miss you. Have a good trip lads.

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS IN ASIA

GERRY MOFFATT & KASHMIR & LADAKH 1st September 1985

Yes, you did read it right!! We have let the 'infamous' Moffatt loose on Kashmir and from all accounts, he seems to be making a very successful job of the trip. We didn't have a vehicle available for this trip so it has been run on public transport. **GERRY** will then be flying to Kathmandu for the start of the rafting season. Well done Moffatt (how is your accounts book??!!)

KATHMANDU

RAJU is safely back in Kathmandu after his 2 month stay in England - it was great to have you over here **RAJU** - make sure you keep those boys in order in Kathmandu!!!

You will all be pleased to hear that **DENNIS** did finally escape from Nepal and is now back in Canada having a much-needed rest.Trust you are putting on some weight with all that home cooking, **DENNIS** - could almost see straight through you !

2 new rafters, **BEN WISHARD AND IAN MILARVIE** are flying out to Kathmandu with **PETE ABEL** on the 21st September .

PETE will be heading up the team out there this season - he has just been back to New Zealand for a short holiday. Hope it was a good one **PETE.**

HIMALAYA OVERLAND

The end of July saw the return of **RADAR & CHRISTIE** with a very happy Troika group (you should have been at the end of trip party - amazing what you can do with a vacuum cleaner....!!!) Good to have you both back briefly. **RADAR** is now out in South America having done a Peru and Incas trip with Chris Robinson and is now taking some holiday out there before heading up to Quito at the beginning of October to help with the turnarounds. **CHRISTIE** has donned a pair of overalls and has been helping out at Wren Park (you've got an engine to do next week Chris!!) She is off to Egypt and Israel at the end of next week with the 8 people who booked on the September Pharaoh ex London. Obviously wasn't worth running a coach, driver and courier out to Kathmandu for so few people so what we have decided to do is to fly them down to Egypt for a 24 day trip and then have them all join the Nomad from here in October. Means the Nomad has now got 32 people on it so it works well all round. **CHRISTIE** will be going out with the Nomad to Kathmandu . It's her birthday today - good age 25 isn't it??!! We women always lie about our age!

GRAHAM BURN, ROBYN SPOOR & ROBERT HALL & TEF 72M, Hong Kong Russia/Scandi Charter 28th July 1985

GRAHAM ROBYN ROBERT & RALPH (yes - that naughty little bear escaped again and there is photographic evidence later in this Newsletter to show you all just **how** naughty he has been!!) had a successful trip despite being beset by constant rain, a full-to-bursting coach and 2 passengers who didn't manage to obtain Polish visas till Moscow.. - well done you guys. **GRAHAM** just left this morning with **JULIAN LEACH** and **TATA** on a relocation to Delhi. They will be picking up **TRISH & BILBO** and their Troika group in Delhi on the 3rd October. Have a good run out to Delhi lads - hope TATA behaves herself. **ROBYN** has also donned her overalls and is working up at Wren Park and **ROBERT** is flying to Joburg on Monday to help **SIMON BOON** with his turnaround and will go as his trainee on the South East Safari sector on the 26th September northbound.

MARTIN BLACKGROVE, CHARLIE NORWOOD & GAIL WILSON & CUT 33T, Hong Kong Charter, 3 week European Tour Number 4

MARTIN & GAIL started the last European trip of the season last week aided and abetted by **CHARLIE NORWOOD.** Hope it goes well you guys and that you have been experiencing some of our Indian Summer over there. Stanley Wong who runs Mera Travel is participating in the first few days of this trip which we hope will mean a better understanding all-round of how we can best run these trips as the Chinese way of life is completely different to ours and we have to come to the right compromise...

PAUL BILBROUGH, TRISH BURT & DAVID WAIN & TEF 73M, Cossack, Troika ex London 13th August 1985,

BILBO, TRISH & DAVID set off with a fairly good size group of 27 and they looked like a pretty interesting bunch. The first night out proved interesting as a bad storm hit Amsterdam that night and blew away the cook tent and a few tents - nothing like getting into the joys of camping straight away...! Apart from a few Indian visa problems the trip is going well. The Cossack Sector ends in Athens on the 1st October and **TRISH & BILBO** will be overflying with the Troika people to Delhi where they will be met by **GRAHAM & JULIAN** for the 20 day Moghul sector from Delhi to Kathmandu. **BILBO** will be hot-footing it up to Kathmandu in time to lead the first trek out.

HIMALAYA OVERLAND CONT

PETER MACALISTER & XMA 204M London Union of Youth Clubs Charter to Morocco 3rd August, 1985

PETER bravely volunteered his services to take a bunch of kids from the London Union of Youth Clubs for a 4 week trip to Morocco in good old XMA and it appears a good time was had by all and Morocco is still in tact. Good to have you back **PETE.**

BACK ON THE EO FRONT

AFRICA SOUTHBOUND

SIMON MADDISON & Q199 MPP, The Great Safari ex London 15th August 1985

We managed to get **SIMON** back from Algiers off **STEVE MORTIMER'S** northbound at the eleventh hour - the Monday before the trip was due to depart in fact! But that was enough time for us to get him a few visas and for him to sort out all the equipment for his extremely smart new truck.

SIMON had one Canadian lady who arrived without a Cameroun visa and she has just been up to Algiers to try and get one but to no avail so we just have to hope that she can get one on the border as there is nowhere else that she can apply. We last heard from **SIMON** in Tam on the 12th and he plans to be in Niamey on the 19th. We are having to send this trip by way of Niamey as **SIMON** has to pick up his 2nd passport with Cameroun visa and Niamey was the only place we could send it as all the Arabic countries were having one of their many long holidays when we wanted to send it to Morocco and it wouldn't have got there in time..... He also has some people on board with expiring Tchad visas so the trip to Niamey will be worth it as he can get these extended at the French Consulate. Bonne Chance **SIMON.**

STEVE TESTER & Q124 MPP, The Great Safari ex London 23rd May 1985

STEVE is going well and expects to be in Joburg **on time**! Well done **STEVE** - something we haven't achieved for a long time. That is the good news **STEVE** - the bad news is that I will be in Joburg when you arrive!! We managed to get this group exemption from the new Game Park prices and **STEVE** managed to organise the Kili climb for those that wanted to climb for U.S.$105. Last heard from him in Dar on the 6th September. Look forward to having a few drinks with you in Joburg **STEVE.**

NEIL PODMORE & JNM 603V, The Great Overland Encounter ex London 16th May 1985

NEIL had a good run down to Nairobi and was running well to time. Unfortunately, due to the extremely wet conditions in the western Sudan at the moment, it is impossible to drive through by road so we have taken the view that, for the time being, all trips travelling the Nile route will overfly from Khartoum to Nairobi and vice versa. We were waiting to hear from **ANNIE & THE ANIMALS** before setting the date for the overflight but they made it back to Khartoum last week-end with Jasper so we also had a reciprocal truck for the overflight. So both **NEIL & ANNIE** are flying over on Monday 16th September (providing our man in Khartoum, Gamar, is able to organise Sudanese visas on arrival for Neil as he was unable to get them in Nairobi - just waiting to hear from Khartoum as I type this). **NEIL** had a 'hard' time up on the Kenyan coast spending time in places like Malindi.... it's a tough life! Look after Jasper won't you - otherwise **ANNIE & THE ANIMALS** will never forgive you!! **NEIL** should have no trouble arriving in Kathmandu on time now that he is overlflying.

NORTHBOUND

DAVE JOHNSON & HMG 820 K, Trans Africa via the Nile 3rd July 1985

DAVE has now completed the South East Safari sector of his trip. He collected 7 new EM's and a trainee in the form of **JAMES HILL** in Nairobi and they are presently in Rwanda having just seen the gorillas. We were unable to get them gorilla bookings for the South East Safari phase of the trip despite booking them a year in advance but they had some time on their hands so were able to see the gorillas on this second phase of the trip. **DAVE** and his group will also be overflying the Sudan. Unfortunately there is no reciprocal truck for them in the Sudan so they will overfly to Cairo with a stopover in Khartoum for a few days and then they will do a 3 week trip around Egypt under the auspices of Mr. Mohamed El Bhay by bus . In case you were wondering what was happening to **DAVE ROBERTSON** - he isn't overflying with **ANNIE & THE ANIMALS** but is staying in Khartoum and will travel up to Egypt with **NEIL** and will then join **DAVE'S** group for their trip around Egypt.

DAVE will be flying to Khartoum on the 23rd September.

Look forward to seeing you back Captain Cuddles!

STEVE MORTIMER & JNM 600V, The Great Safari ex Joburg 17th April

STEVE & SIMON made good time up through Tchad and the Desert. As you know **SIMON** left **STEVE** in Tam and made his way up by bus to Algiers and flew back to London (he assures us that the bus ride was the only part of the trip that he didn't enjoy!) and **STEVE** brought a very happy group back to London on 28th August. **STEVE** is in competition with **DAVID WALKLEY** and **DENNIS** for the thinnest driver - final judgement hasn't yet been reached. But he is his usual cheerful self and is off on holiday - well deserved too.

LANCE THOMAS & AOR 622J, Trans Africa via the Nile 13th March

As you gathered from the Adventures of **ANNIE & THE ANIMALS, LANCE** lost his trainee, DAVE, in Cairo. After sailing to Jordan and handing over the rest of his GOE pax to **MIKE EDWARDS** his group was depleted to 8 people but they managed to have a good time in Turkey (who doesn't??!!) and arrived in London on the 3rd September. **LANCE** looks fit and healthy and there is great speculation in the office as to what his future plans might be...! He plans to return to Australia just after Christmas and start an engineering course - we shall certainly miss you **LANCE** (you will invite us to the wedding won't you?!)

DAVID WALKLEY & WBH 646S, The Great Safari 27th February 1985

DAVE was trying hard for the record for the longest Africa trip ever but think **GRAEME KIDD** still holds that record!! However this was due to a number of reasons, not least **DAVID** suffering another really bad bout of malaria and dear old WBH breaking down almost daily from Niger onwards but the group were happy and had thoroughly enjoyed their trip. **DAVID** presently looks concave but we are hoping that this might change after your holiday .... Good to have you back.

SIMON BOON & WBH 645S, The Great Safari ex London 30th March 1985

SIMON was unfortunate enough to have a hernia diagnosed in Nairobi so he took things very easily down to Dar where we had to have **PETE ABEL** take over the trip and we flew **SIMON** back to London. Due to the amazing inefficiency of the National Health system he had to wait some considerable time for the operation and even had to have 2 attempts at it - the first time they had given his bed away!! However the deed has now been down and **SIMON** is back down in Joburg working on WBH and will be leaving on the 25th September northbound via the Nile. As he is still recuperating and can't lift heavy things, we are sending **ROBERT HALL** down to help with the turnaround and to be his trainee up as far as Nairobi. See you for a drink before you leave **SIMON**

ANNIE BRADSHAW & Q43 MPP (Jasper) The Great (Great!) Overland Encounter ex Kathmandu 15th March.

Well this trip is turning into quite an epic - we've already sold the film rights !

ANNIE AND THE ANIMALS havefound themselves on the Great African Adventure featuring long distance hiking, snorkelling, scuba diving, donkey riding, camel safaris to name but a few of the added extras!

in all seriousness, **ANNIE AND THE ANIMALS** got to Umm Dafog on the Sudanese/ Central African border where they could go no further as the rains had decided to come with a vengeance after 7 years of drought and turned the roads into raging rivers and lakes. Unfortunately **JASPER** being only a young truck had not gained his water wings and was unable to convey them any further. Our first news of their plight was recieved from one of the Animals,JOHN MARTENS who had gone by camel, walked for 3 days in water up to his shoulders and then taken a plane from Birao to Bangui to explain to us what had happened to them. We then decided to pull **DAVE ROBERTSON** out of Cairo (he was on the 13th March northbound as **LANCE THOMAS'S** trainee) and dispatch him to Bangui . **DAVE** met up with John in the infamous patisserie in Bangui and they then proceed to slowly make their way back to **ANNIE & THE ANIMALS.** The flight up to Birao was the easy bit, then they had to walk and resort to donkey-riding as there was no camels available - **DAVE'S** donkey was named 'The Pope'! **ANNIE** reports that she has been having a lot of problems with the truck batteries and in order to get them charged, she had to make a 5 day camel ride in each direction - we are going to feature camel safaris in the next brochure **ANNIE** and you will be instructing!!

ANNIE and the group got back to Khartoum last week-end - we were quite pleased to hear from them as you can imagine!! And they are all set to overfly on Monday 16th September to the civilisation of Nairobi - I wonder if Nairobi is ready for the Animals?!! **ANNIE** will be using **NEIL's** truck for a few days but will be taking over HMG from **DAVE JOHNSON** once he gets back to Nairobi. Dave is due to overfly on the 23rd September.

Great to have you guys back on the map once more and we look forward to the Animals next Newsletter!

AFRICAN BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

BRIAN (BWANA) FELTOVICH & WBH 647S, Cradles ex London 4th July

BRIAN and his 'harem' seemed to have a very enjoyable trip down through the Middle East. Slight hitch in Jordan with the Jordanian Banking System and the non-arrival of the telex transfer to pay for the Aqaba to Suez ferry but these 'little' problems can be overcome and they sailed on the appointed day. **BRIAN** was joined by **DAVE HUNT** in Aqaba who was despatched straight to Cairo to collect funds and he then travelled with **BRIAN** for the Egyptian section of this Cradles trip. **BRIAN**, I am sure, then feared another attempt by EO to make him take up permanent Egyptian residency but this was not to be and he flew home courtesy of Egypt Air and has since flown back to the Land of 'the Fruits and Nuts' for a holiday before returning to London to lead the 10th October Great Safari ex London. Beware of all thos 'septics' won't you **BRIAN??!!**

DAVE HUNT & WBH 647S, Egypt 31st August, 1985

So **DAVE** has now taken over the reins in Egypt and is in the last week on his first Egypt trip with 16 people on board – all seems to be going well so far. Good luck **DAVE.**

TONY WATSON & CLP **203J**, East African Safari 25th August 1985

TONY finished his South East Safari on 27th August in Nairobi and he has now taken over from **BRUCE WATKINS** in East Africa and will be running a few short trips for us there – we won't leave you there for too long **TONY** we promise! Just heard from him on the phone today from Arusha and he had a successful meeting with Mr. Babu (of Tanzanian National Park Fame) and has got the final clearance for all the trips going through the Parks before the 1st December to be exempt from the increases – thanks **TONY .**

CLIVE UMBERS & GUR 527T, Mountain Gorilla Safari 18th August 1985

CLIVE has run a couple of successful trips for us out in East Africa and this one seems to be going well from all accounts. **CLIVE** has played a very important part in negotiating with Mr. Babu (as did **PETE ABEL**) – many thanks for all your hard work **CLIVE** – it is much appreciated. **CLIVE** will be running the next East Africa trip which starts on September 28th.

SOUTH AMERICA

DAVE HARRINGTON & ALLARDES HOITING, Conquistador & Ocean to Ocean 7th September ex Rio

Prior to the start of this trip, **DAVE & ALLARDES** were busy in Rio with the turnaround which went well – even extracting parts from Rio Customs was no problem with the help of Marco. **DAVE** just started this trip off and only went as far as Foz and is now on his way back to Rio to fly back to London early next week. **ALLARDES** is being joined by **CHRIS ROBINSON** who has recently completed a Peru and the Incas trip and is meeting up with the trip in Asuncion and will then carry on to Quito with **ALLARDES.**

SOUTH AMERICA CONT

CHRIS ROBINSON & RADAR JEFFRIES & BVS 969T, Peru 6 the Incas 11th August 1985

Yes - it is the same **RADAR** of HO fame - decided to take a break from coaches and go and have a look at these Dodges and see what they are all about. He is doing this trip with **CHRIS** and then going to take some holiday time and most probably be involved in the Quito turnarounds. The trip seems to be going well - hope you've found all that cold-weather gear useful RADAR? Once the truck has been secured in La Paz, Chris will be flying to Asuncion to Join **ALLARDES** for the Conquistador / Ocean-to-Ocean ex Rio on 7th September. **CHRIS** will be flying back to the U.K. at the end of this trip and will then be flying home to Australia for a holiday. **ALLARDES** will be involved in running Darien Gap trips in December/January.

(Mr. Muller insists that this is a more accurate representation of his new slimline self!)

THIS MONTH'S READING FROM HOT SEAT

RALPH CHAPTER IX

Silly season Number 3 having arrived, Heather has decided to leave the ship for a while to endeavour to catch a few more "bums on seats" ex Johannesburg. Never mind, she has 3 departures to monitor whilst there so that should keep her busyAt this end, having seen many trips arrive home recently– Rene Muller & Olly Phillips from Asia and David Walkley, Geoff Roy, Lance Thomas and Steve Mortimer from Africa – we are now into the season of departures back to Asia and Africa.

South America is picking up and time to get some new blood out there – not least because it is time for David Harrington and Chris Robinson to have a break. Allardes Hoiting is primed and, I believe, keen to do the Darien Gap again this Christmas. Radar is in new pastures out there and is playing tourist having just compieted a Peru and the Incas trip with Chris Robinson. Two trucks are departing from Quito in November but not before a lot of turnaround work. Hot Seat has a bit more to learn about South America so upon Heather's return, Mr. Suti will depart for Quito. 'Peter Mac' was also to have gone out to help with the turnaround but unfortunately he has just had a bad accident on his motorbike – couple of broken arms so he's out of action for a while, not the best way to have a holiday – we're thinking of you Pete!!

The Kathmandu Season is looming again – 2 new rafters, Ben Wishardt and Ian Milarvie, presently at Wren Park, will fly to Kathmandu on Saturday 21st with Peter Abel to begin preparation and training. Gerry Moffatt and Trevor Howard are returning so we look forward to a good team this year.

A busy Hong Kong (Mera Travel) programme is almost compieted for this year – Martin, Gail and Charles Norwood are compieting the final 3 week Europe trip, then we have one Sahara Safari in October.

A number of trainees have departed Wren Park recently – James Hill is presently with Dave Johnson in East Africa and he will then join Annie & The Animals – you'll learn something there James!! Kurt Fritsche has joined Bruce Watkins en route to Kathmandu, Julian Leach is with Graham Burn relocating a coach to India and finally Robert Hall is flying down to Joburg to join Simon Boon.

Now just when you thought I had said enough!! – a few points to remember!!

1. **VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT**

   We are yet again reminded of the varying state that vehicles and equipment are arriving in at Wren Park. Recently some have returned in what could be considered excellent condition – examples include **RADAR & CHRISTINE** with TEF 73M, **STEVE MORTIMER** with JNM 600V – there are others so don't think your work goes unobserved. **BUT** still we have those few who do not appear to have organised themselves or their groups into looking after their home and means of transport.

   Remember your vehicle and equipment are an important part of advertising – this includes your **own** dress and appearance.

MR. SUTI'S WORDS OF WISDOM CONTINUED

2. EM'S/GROUP MEMBERS LEAVING TRIPS:

Recently we have had several instances of persons leaving trips en route to 'do their own thing'.

a. In every instance they **must** sign a disclaimer.

b. You must advise EOL/HOL as soon as possible and give us details of their intentions.

Although legally we cannot be held responsible for their actions after this, we are bound to pass on relevant information to parents etc or 'if needs be' contact an Embassy.

That's it for now folks, keep up the good works.

Cheers

MR SUTI - and Ralph about to join schhhhhhhhhhhhhhh you know who....., Trev and of course Betram, the latest addition to the Bear Brigade.

FROM DEREK BIDDLE ACE OF PROMOTIONS:

HIMALAYA OVERLAND

The new brochure for the coach programme is now printed, and very smart it is too. Some important changes have been made which are worth comment here:

1. The name of the programme has been changed to Sundowners Overland Odysseys and the reasons are as follows:

   a. In Australia, which is the major marketplace for the programme, our General Sales Agent is called Sundowners. Over the years, Sundowners have made a name marketing coach programmes and it is considered that this credibility factor will enhance sales. Please note though that despite having the same name, Sundowners in Australia do not have any direct involvement in Sundowners Overland except for representing it in Australia.

   b. The programme of tours visits many areas for which the name 'Himalaya' is not appropriate i.e. the Middle East, U.S.S.R etc. A less specific name therefore eliminates this problem.

      It is also a name which will lend itself to any developments made to the programme in the future.

   c. Although H.O. has received bookings from other areas of marketing i.e. Europe and North America, the volume to date has not been great and therefore we are not, at present, faced with a big problem of market identification. So, given the above points,that Sundowners is a more marketable name, making the change now will not be damaging.

      Added to this, more promotion and agent support is planned to really get Sundowners established and I feel confident that 1986 will be a good year.

2. The programme itself has been changed to make it all overland. Flights between Cairo and Athens, Athens and Karachi have been removed and itineraries altered to suit.

3. The Pharaoh, Alexander, Nomad and Moghul are now all hotel accommodated giving a continuity of comfort throughout.

4. The Cossack/Troika will retain the camping element in Scandanavia and the U.S.S.R as the trips are all run during the summer months. It also simplifies making the arrangements in those areas and, perhaps most important, keeps the costs reasonable and makes the trips more saleable.

5. The price structure has been simplified and now has a tour cost which includes accommodation and a separate food fund.

The new brochure, I am sure you will agree, is very attractive, well laid out and easy to read and understand. They will be with all our agents by the middle of September, giving a very good lead time to reach potential clients for the sales of next year's trips.

All the best

DEREK

FROM ROB RUMBALL

So here it is at last - the new Himalaya Overland brochure and with a new name too. Before you start wondering if we have been taken over by a company from down-under, let me assure you that we have not!

So, why the new name? Well - several reasons. The name Sundowners is still very well-known by many and since it is now three years since the London Company was wound up we felt it was worth looking into the use of the name in one form or another. The Overland Coach programme is sold in Australia through Sundowners Travel Centre Offices in each state and are our largest suppliers of bookings. Himalaya Overland was not, in the opinion of some, the best of names, particularly in Australia where there are several companies employing the word 'Himalaya' in their names already. The creation of a new company - Sundowners International Ltd, allows us much greater flexibility for future expansion without, in any way, diluting the very specific place and image that Encounter Overland holds in the international market place of expedition travel.

Although all the above is valid, there is the inevitable negative effect of a change in name - hence the reason behind keeping the same (red, white and blue) livery together with a similarity between this and the previous edition.

The brochure has so far been well-received and we are looking forward to a good season in 1986.

We are now researching and planning the new EO '86-87 brochure. Our thirst for new photos is as acute as ever so please do your best. If you have a camera with a decent lens and you use slide film (prints are not much use) we would like to see your best shots. We have plenty of the classical scenes but need action shots which really say EO, groups, campsites, people having fun (must be printable!), ferry crossings etc etc. We hope to have some full page spreads in the new one so do your best please.

All the best

ROB

FROM GERRY AT WREN PARK:

With the month of August rapidly disappearing and summer making a last defiant attempt not to show, it's heads down for winter and the next onslaught of departures. With 121 days only till Christmas you had better get your skates on and shop early!

The Workshop is a hive of activity - recent arrivals include Martin and Gail with CUT, Graham, Robert and Robyn with TEF, Peter Macalister with XMA, Steve Mortimer with JNM 600V, Lance Thomas with AOR 622J , Rene Muller with Q167 MPP (brought in by Charles Norwood today) to name but a few..... so with all these comings and goings I will get back to the Control Tower.

MOSI NETS

As you should all now be aware, mosquito nets are now part of the equipment and not individually owned as in the past which means yet another thing that falls to the responsibility of yourselves. Most of the nets we get back can only be described as disgusting. Nets, like camp beds and tents, should be allocated to a person and they in turn should be asked to wash them from time to time. The longer a net goes between washes the more chance there is of us throwing it away. Can I just bring to your attention the price of these nets - £12.80 each.
So **please** can we see more taken of them in the future.

Keep smiling

GERRY & HIS GROUND STAFF

DRIVER'S/COURIER'S PAGE:

Well folks, I finally twisted someone's arm so that I could re-introduce this page in the Newsletter.... These Americans are very gullible!!!

BRIAN's contribution is a poem by one of his Cradles EM's

DETTOL IS YOUR FRIEND

Why am I so s ick?
Why am I not well?
If Dettol is my friend,
If Dettol is my pal.

I taste it in my coffee,
I taste it in my tea,
I taste it in my meals,
I smell it when I pee.

So listen Mr. Dettol
With your overwhelming taste,
If you were a human being,
I'd punch you in the face.

And.... just in case you were wondering how **BRIAN** passed his P.S.V., here is the photographic evidence...!

FROM THE ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Hi there

Well the Accounts Department is here once again with its words of wisdom.....

Yet again, we have a new member of the Department (well a 'resurrected member really!) who is affectionately known as 'The Beastie'. Our new member is a Compaq Personal Computer who now has her own desk in 271 Old Brompton Road. 'The Beastie' is at present being organised to do various bits of the accounts so watch out you Lot because the 'Beastie' is all-knowing and all-powerful and is being programmed to play in **all** positions in our team. The 'Beastie's' first ta sk is to calculate October's payroll, so apologies in advance if no-one gets paid!!! We'll keep you informed of the 'Beastie's progress and adventures in subsequent Newsletters (Ed's note: I don't want to start any rumours but the 'Beastie' does a lot of blinking and fluttering of its red light whenever JCC is around!!)

So, on a more serious note, we are still not getting enough warning from you all when monies are needed. We only hold a **small** float of sterling and dollars in the office (we used to have more until the police confiscated our printing press!!) All money has to be ordered and collected from the bank. So please, please warn us in advance of any wage advances, refunds to group members etc so that we can have the money available.

Take care and remember..... The **BEASTIE** is watching you.....!!

DENISE

RALPH'S SCANDAL AND GOSSIP COLUMN

Well I must confessto having enjoyed my last little jaunt - all the interests of a young bear's initiation into the big bad overlanding world! Europe, Scandanavia and Russia with **GRAHAM, ROBERT AND ROBIN** - you can imagine how those 3 led me astray - I have photographic evidence to prove how they led me astray!! I mean what can a poor bear do - they are all so much bigger than me so I had to give in...!

I am not speaking to the Ed at the moment - she's no fun at all. She keeps making outrageous suggestions about putting me in a washing machine - wouldn't do anything for a poor bear's head in the morning - now a jaccuzzi with a few pretty ladies would be quite another matter!

And - what is more - she is threatening to airfreight me to some unknown destination in Africa - does this woman not realise that it is cold and dark in the hold of a plane. I will settle for a seat on Egypt Air which isn't much of an improvement but it'll have to do. That is all the information I am allowedto give out about my next 'posting' - you'll just have to wait until the next edition to find out who the lucky recipients of my lovely furry self are going to be.

Trev is now back from his first forray out into the real world and he has come back a much more street-wise bear - the Hong Kong influence was obviously very strong as he has come back with his own camera!!

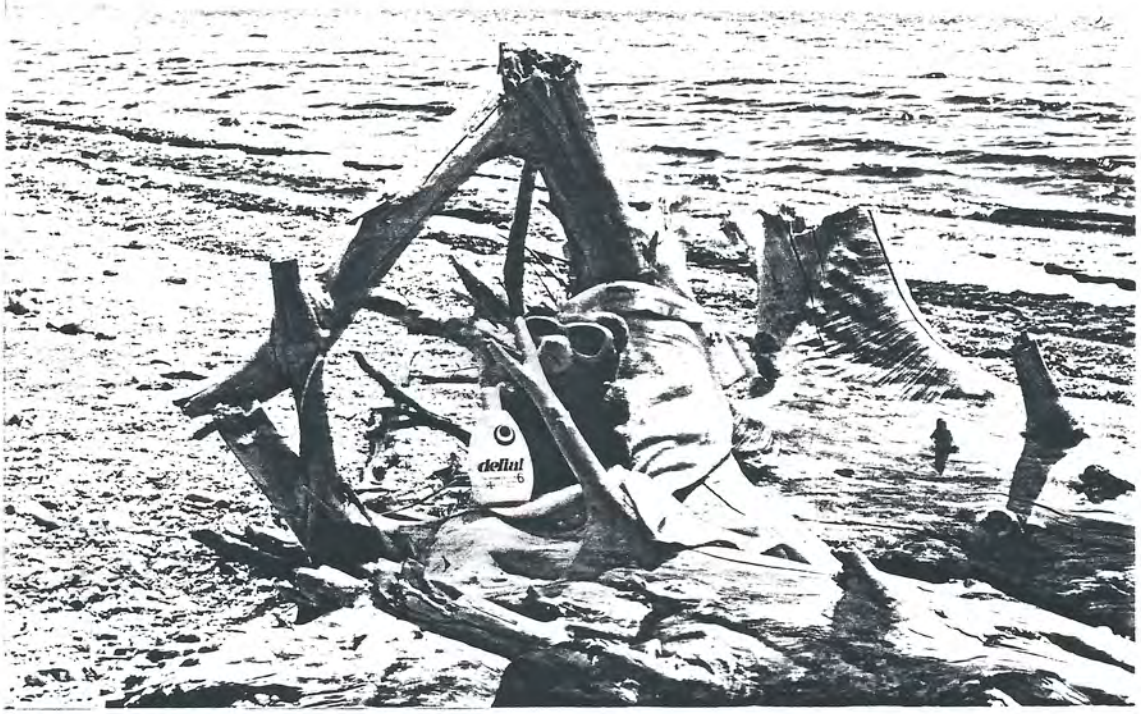
And then there is the new bear called Betram - can't be too rude about him as he is a big lad - not the sort of bear you would like to meet in a dark alley at night! He's not a bad sort - even if he does wear a Stetson and smoke cigars! I don't really reckon he's bear-nappable (due to his size) but he obviously has aspirations to travel as I caught him reading a spanish phrase book - una cerveza por favor and all that..! could be dropping hints to Mr. Suti?!!

Well must go and dig out the suntan lotion and paludrine for my next 'assignment' - some on the road news from your furry friend next month - until then .....

RALPH

P.S. I see the Ed's let the cat out of the bag (or the bear if you prefer!) Yes, I am off to join Annie and the Animals - going back to my own kind you know!!

'It's a hard life that a young Bear leads on the road...!'

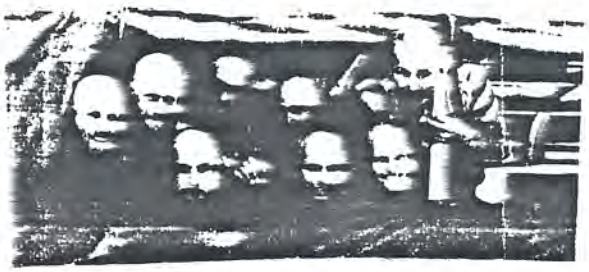


Mr Sulf c Ralph

ANIMAL NEWS

VOL 1 NO. 2 KHARTOUM 17 JUNE 1985 CIRCULATION HEAPS

PHOTO SCOOP



ANIMALS SCALPED IN ASWAN

Hot off the wire comes this exclusive photograph from Aswan where 8 Animals were purloined of their lubal growth while asleep one night Is nothing safe from thieves in Africa?

The Missionary Position

Psalm 1. So they came, on a mission impossible, like lambs to the slaughter, in pursuit of the "Animals in Africa". They had heard the word, and although fearful, had to follow their habits and their calling.

What a calling! It was obvious these poor lost souls were crying out for something (later confirmed by reports on their behaviour prior to our arrival.

They perhaps didn't quite get what they were wanting, but we could see they had been blind before and each had met misfortunes which had got in their path, forcing them to indulge in excessive means of escape from their burdens.

And now we were here to show them the way, change their load and put our habits to use.

We could tell how overjoyed they were to have 3 missionaryies placed in their midsts by their enthusiastic embraces on arrival in Luxor. But, as we observed their lust for wallowing in the mud, we realised their ways had degenerated far back to basic animalistic origins and knew our work would be cut out for us. So we quickly set about the task of mending their ways.

A missionaries work is not always appreciated, causing some sleepless nights, while others take longer to discover it. So we must wait patiently (something we are learning rapidly) whilst we overcome the pitfalls to which we may be driven along our journey to righteousness or Nairobi, whichever comes first.

STOP PRESS

Cooking exam results.

FAIL - Gay Breeuwer for her diesoline fried vegetable rice and then sneeking away leaving unscrubbed pots.

Dear Annie.....

1) Lately, many occupants of Jasper have often been experiencing a sinking feeling. what can we do?

Annie replies - Sometimes in life our solid ground gives way. We must dig deeper and harder for a secure holding. If this doesn't work, hire some natives and a high lift jack.

2) While on guard duty I have been noticing things taking place that are supposed to be immoral. Should I ignore this, doo them in, or ask to be included?

Annie replies... One should be discrete in life. If they are not, they deserve all the flak they get. See the gossip columnist, you might make some money

Briefly ----

- A.A. has their first taste of sandmatting recently and enjoyed it so much they were ful of joy when a few days later we sank to the axles in mud and had to start digging
- The 3 sets of goggles and snorkels bought in Cairo were put to good use near Pt Sudan where there were great coral reefs with a large variety of brightly coloured fish and coral
- After hearing horrific stories of thieving in Africa we have stanned 24 hr guard duty of Jasper
- The new sound system in the back has been receiving constant use and makes the day pass quicker.

Editorial

As we are about to plun into deepest darkest Africa we would all like to take this opportunity to pass our greetings on to you all, in case we are swallowed in the dark void and are never seen again.

Do not worry unduly thou as with our make up of passengers (and driver) anythi swallowing us will with all likelihood become very ill and vomit us up again!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir, I wish to compla about your column ~~Bean~~, 'Stash of Trash'. It seems to me he watches everyone else and blows any small incident out of proportion. All I can sa is perhaps if he takes a naughty holiday in Nairob we can reverse the tables for a while.

Annie.

Fashion News

Fashion Views

Unavailable this week due to a nasty hangover an a gut full of diesoline.

Stash of Trash

Relaxing at American club unavailable for comment.

Album playlist

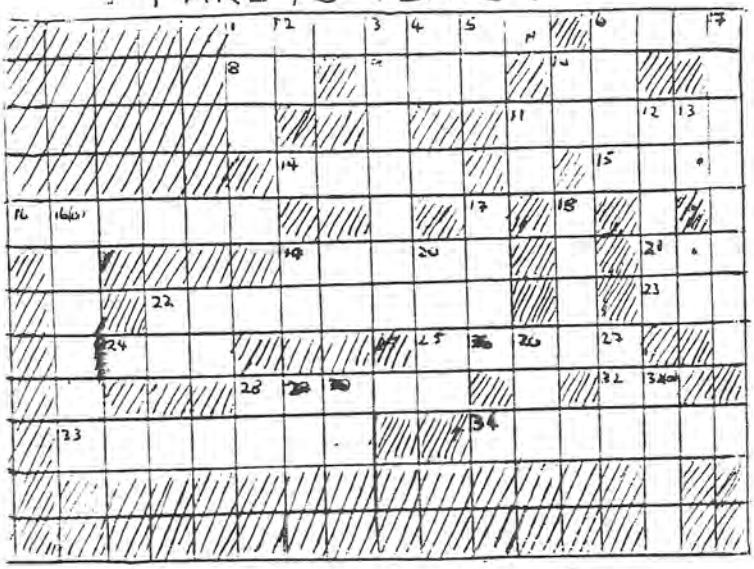
Cold Chisel - 20th Century
China Chrisis - Working with fire and steel
The Who - Greatest Hits
Grover Washington Jr - Winelight
Taj Mahal - Best of.

Quote of the Week

Has anyone seen the keys?

-Unnamed Driver

TARDY'S TEASER



~~ACROSS~~ DOWN

1) What we attracted in India besides flies
2) With it
3) Bear Thieves (the worst kind)
4) African Animals
5) -- Plane Home
6) What we are all short of.
7) Favourite breakfast food
8) African Animals
11) One of the missionaries
12) Who sucked the big one in Gürsene.
13) What you say when stuck for words
16(a) where we are.
17) What we drank heaps of in Turkey
18) What blows off the most in Jasper (besides Grue)
19) (_A_) What hangs off N.Z. sheep.
20) What we did when going at night
22) --N - what we are having
26) Slang for aboriginal
27) What roads in Africa lack.
28) Jungle Madness
32 a) What we don't want to catch in C.A.R.

ACROSS

1) Grub
6) What we suspect Brute II or 2nd word of 19 across.
8) Where we are going
9) What John and Gary do a lot of
10) African Animals
11) Funny little orange truck who eats tractors for breakfast.
14) Bloody Lazy Barstards Club
15) Ben ---- (Movie)
16) Jasper's favourite brand of breakfast (see also 22 across)
19) A nice place to stay (3 words see 34 & 6 across)
21) Mint sauce, Pat and dinner of E.O. truck met in Pit Sudan
22) See 16 across
23) What happens after too much alcohol.
24) Refreshment supplied by E.O. at K.G.H.
25) What you get if you are last in line at meals
28) The bearded lady
32) African Animals
33) Inhabitants of Jasper
34) See 19 across.

Stretch - The Truth

Reign of terror ends in Khartoum Stretch the Truth uncovers a story of horrific ramifications. This reporter has recently been tipped off about another coup d'etat about to happen in a city recently made famous for cups. It has come to notice that the M.O., one R. Treuethan, better known as Dopey by his gangland friends, has single handedly terrorised our entire expidition Is nothing sacred! We have learned from secret, inside sources, of how he used blackmail, bribery, and when neccessary has stabbed his assistants in the back to regain lost credibility.

The peasants are revolting, (as usual) and after everyone was fined 100 moral points for no other reason than the M.O was in a bad mood because he didn't get any, even our driver began to sit up and take notice.

Watch this space for any new developments which will be brought to you by Stretch the Truth.

STOP PRESS

The M.O., alias Dopey alias Sly Dog, will now also be charged with neglect of duty and committing numerous gross immoral acts. The recently started 24hr guard duty has revealed that his bed is always in close proximity to a certain woman (who for the purposes of this column will be called Miss L.) Censorship and a sense of propriety have forbidden us to supply further details so we leave it to you to imagine what is actually happening.

Ice cream & choccy guide to Asia

Nepal - ice cream at Nirullas Many imported chocolates in Thamel area

India - ice-cream locally unavailable but delicious specialities ie banana split and hot chocolate fudge at Nirullas in Delhi. Has the best plain chocolate in Asia (and ~~the~~ up there with the world) in Amul Crisp and Amul Bitter which are widely available.

Pakistan - delicious creamy flavoured tubs to be bought cheaply at all local shops Strawbery especially nice. Local chocolate pretty non-existent but imported Mars bars, Kit-Kats etc available in touristy places

Iran - Chocolate non-existant Horrible watery excuse for ice-cream in most places however a few of us found mouth watering creamy soft serve in Esfahan.

Turkey - chocolate bar paradise with more variety than you can imagine. Ordinary ice cream on the rare occasion it could be found.

Syria - imported chocolates in the cities. Nice soft serve in Alleppo.

Jordan - once again many imported chocolates. Great Drumstik style cones with nuts & flavouring.

Egypt - local ice-cream widely available & runs a close second to Pakistan for taste. Local & imported chocolate A special mention must be made of 'Gersey bars', a local chocolate covered coconut bar similar to a Bounty but not as rich & nicer. This reporter became hooked and was eating 8-10 a day when they were available

Animal Profile. - The Missionaries

Lyndie - at last another bovvanous set of ta-tas on the truck to rival Annies. After applying her morning make up, doing her hair and passing around the eau de cologne Lyndie is ready for the days travel. She finds the heat particularly trying because it plays hell on the mascara but loves mud baths because it makes her skin so nutty supple. Is always waiting for the Japanese men to light up some sandalwood.

Jo - her problem is linguistical. If and when she ever masters the Australian language, things will be much easier for everyone concerned. Ever since childhood Jo has craved to be an Aussie, as many kiwis do, and often tells Pons that she is one. Has a particularly bad habit of flashing at the locals while in classy motels.

Gay - the purest of the 3 virgins so far and the most fanatical. She even has special mat for praying on 5 times a day. We have already had complaints about Gays raucous behaviour aboard the truck and if she doesn't quieten down a bit and stop drinking there will be some unrest among the crew. This missionary will certainly have to change her position.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

				M	I	C	H	A	E	L		C	A	M	P
				O	N		E	A	T		A	A			O
				B			R			J	A	S	P	E	R
				B	L	B	C		O		H	U	R	R	
M	I	A	S	S	E	Y			A		W		H		N		I
	F						D	E	L	H	I		A		K	I	D
	R		F	E	R	G	U	S	O	N			T		S	A	G
	I	R	U	M					L	E	A	S	T				E
	C				J	U	L	I	E		B		A	A			
	A	N	I	M	A	L	S				T	O	U	R	I	S	T
															D		
															S		

Moral Morality Rules

Drunk & disorderly - bonus -40pts taken off

Not being drunk & disorderly 40

Intertruck fornication
(1) Suspected ~~150~~ 75
(2) Actual 150

Intruck fornication
(1) Suspected 150
(2) Actual 300

Passing out due to drunken stupor -40

Drinking alone 50

Being first to bed 50

Scratching your privates with cutlery 50

Scratching your privates with someone elses hand -50

Farting in the cab 100

Making bad porridge 50

Not eating porridge 50

Changing your clothes more than once in each country 100

Scoring with a Guerna truck - erasure of all points

Scoring with a Rotel bus - automatic win the moral medal

Projectile vomiting 40

Threesomes 50

Looking unkempt in the morning 50

This is a cross section of the rules only. Space does not permit the whole collection. The Nairobi edition of Animal News will have the names of the top three contenders for each medal. An investigation committee will judge the points for each member and there will be investigators to investigate the investigation committee. Also the three missionaries will be given points on suspicion of immorality in the Greek and British Isles. We consider they would have had their habits lowered at some stage in the period before they joined us.

M.O

A.M.O (soon to be deposed)

Travel.

Are you an Australian contemplating an overseas holiday? Although ultimately a rewarding experience, one should be aware of the hurdles that must be overcome. One of the most obvious problems is communicating with the locals, but did you know that you will also face this problem with your travelling companions? You will undoubtedly find yourself travelling with Kiwis and Canadians, and through great personal hardship I have prepared this simple translation guide to help you to understand the peculiar tongues of your fellow overlanders. Take it with you, you'll need it!

KIWI - AUSTRALIAN

Cheully bin - esky

seux - six

janoais - thongs

feush 'n' chips - fish and ch

jersey - jumper

the peuts - the pits

felt tap pen - texta

weump - wimp

peuss off! - get lost

baug geun - big gun

sweum - swim

theus eus eut - here we are

eut's a beut nippy - its bloody cold

eun - in

delecious dinner - terrific food

sheut - certainly not something you do with a gun

CANADIAN-AUSTRALIAN

haa gaas - g'day cobber

cooleerr - esky

fraad tomaitoes fried tomatoes

pail - bucket

ketchup - sauce

parp - soft drink

anyone look some murrr beeonz? - would any of the gathered dignitaries care for another serving of baked beans.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

HOT SEAT:	01-373-0354
WORKSHOP*	0462-811470/815424
WREN PARK (after hours - **ROB**)	0462-814292
GERRY (home)	046272-338
WARREN:	01-677-6433
HEATHER	01-994-6794

NL160985