

Serpentine Jarrahdale

# WHERE

FREE | Edition 06  
JANUARY 2021

*Your local community magazine*

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Celebrating 18 years of protecting  
our local environment

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and environmental protection with  
Charles Kerfoot





## INDEPENDENT NDIS CONSULTANTS & SERVICES

At CHAYAH we're here to make the NDIS as easy as possible and to get you started on your journey.

If you need to apply for an NDIS funding package, we'll break down how it works, support you and ensure you get the most out of your NDIS plan.

Our Support Coordination service will connect you with service providers in your community. This means you can focus on living the life you want and achieving your goals.

Contact Louise on 0455 192 281  
E: [admin@chayahsc.com.au](mailto:admin@chayahsc.com.au)  
[www.hellochayah.com.au](http://www.hellochayah.com.au)



## Byford Toastmasters Club

Presents a FREE Interactive Workshop

### Speaking Confidently, Presenting Powerfully

January 16th, 2021 | 9:00am – 11:00am  
Upstairs at DOME Restaurant, Byford

Do you want to be able to structure a speech to get your message across?  
- Graham will show you how.



Do you want to be able to present confidently and overcome your nerves?  
- Julie will give you tips on this.

Join in a fun impromptu speaking session and get tips for improvement.

Everyone, 16 and above, are welcome  
Book at: <https://tinyurl.com/byfordtm1>

For regular meeting details, find us at [facebook.com/Byford-Toastmasters-102336288410975](https://www.facebook.com/Byford-Toastmasters-102336288410975)

## Why do horse floats, caravans and trailers need servicing?

Often during Australian summers, bush fires are caused by poorly maintained trailer wheel bearings. This includes horse floats, caravans and trailers.

Worn out wheel bearings prevent your wheels from turning freely, adding unnecessary friction that quickly turns into heat. From that heat, tyres can catch fire.

Pair that with a dry Australian summer wind and you could find your trailer and surroundings on fire!

### Early signs of wheel bearing problems:

- Abnormal or uneven tyre wear on one wheel;
- Hub cap is too hot to touch;
- Wheel vibration, wobble or noise;
- Decreased braking power;
- Pulling to the side during moderate or heavy braking;
- Wheel lock-up or skidding.

### Potential causes of wheel bearing failure:

- Inadequate or poor-quality lubrication from not servicing your trailer frequently enough;
- Overloading, causing excessive force on the bearing;
- A faulty bearing, causing mechanical failure;
- Excessive end play in bearing adjustment;
- Excessive pre-load due to the axle nut being too tight.

Wheel bearings should be serviced every 10,000 km or 12 months (whichever comes first).

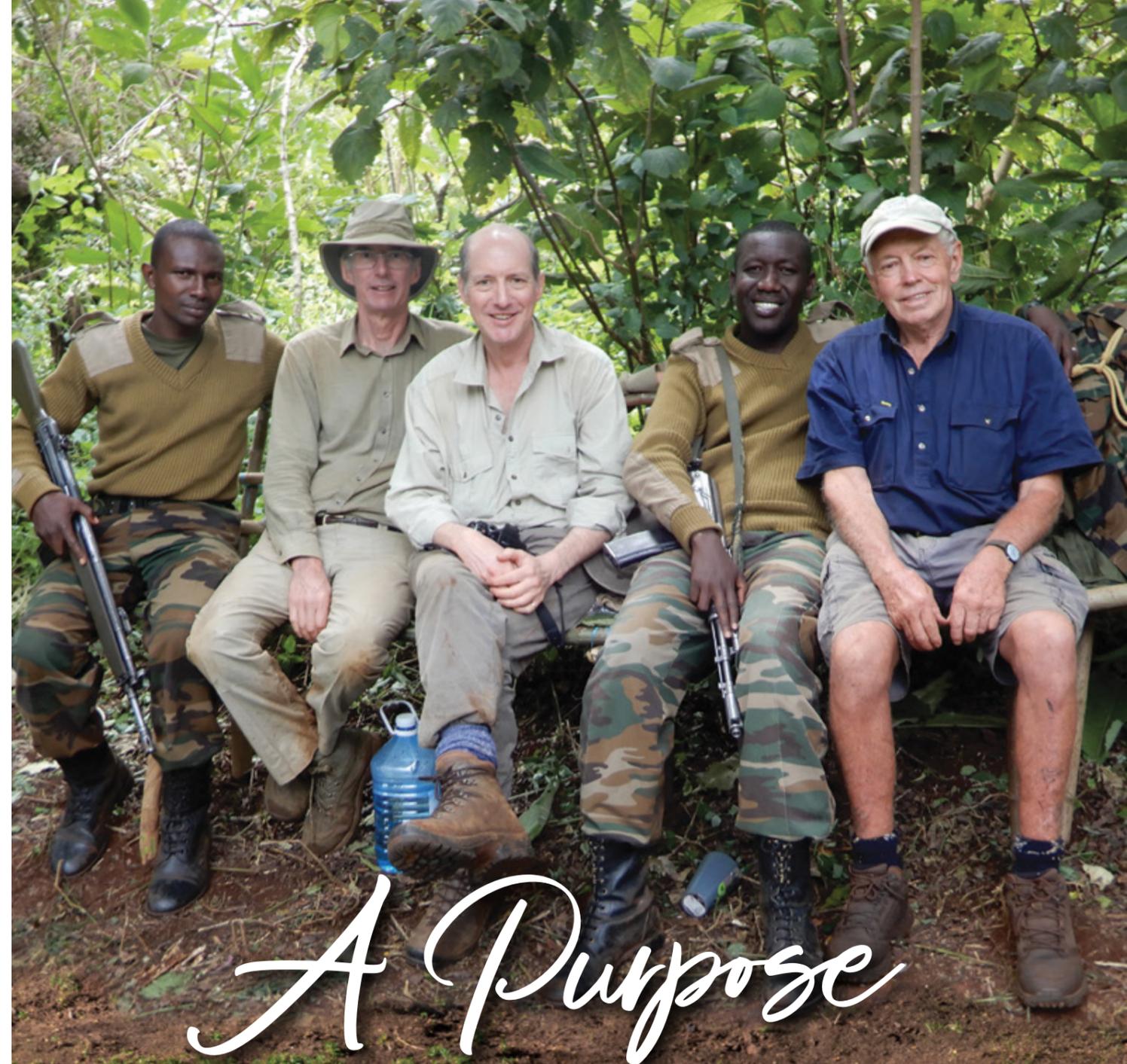
### Here's what's included in a trailer service:

- Safety checks;
- Strip & repack of wheel bearings;
- Checks on braking, electric and light systems;
- Lubrication of all joints;
- Lubrication of suspension when applicable;
- Checks and adjustments on tyre pressures.

Regular checks and servicing of your trailer, caravan and horse floats can help in preventing bush fires this fire season. Check in with your local mechanic if you have any questions about your wheel bearings, or your vehicle or trailer servability.



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# A Purpose

by Stacey Holmwood

It's a hot summer's day as I sit down in a quaint farm kitchen 'ready to talk' about the Mount Elgon Foundation with Charles Kerfoot. As his wife Vicky makes us all a cup of tea, Charles sits down next to me and starts small talk. I met Charles when we first moved into our house in Jarrahdale; we were walking one of the local trails and he approached us, identified us as the new family in town, and proceeded to tell us about the black wattle and how it was suffocating our surrounding forests. Five years on, I see Charles and Vicky on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. Today's meeting, however, is different. I'm not here to talk about our local ecosystem; today, we're going to talk about Charles' childhood and passions outside of Jarrahdale – Mount Elgon and its 'cave elephants'.

Charles and Vicky were both born and raised in a small agricultural town in Kenya, called Kitale. Their families had emigrated from the UK in the late 1920's. The couple are passionate about the environment and are active volunteers for multiple organisations in town, including the organisation mobilised to protect the Northern Jarrah Forest. So, it didn't surprise me when I found out that Charles is a key advisor for the Mount Elgon Foundation, an organisation with the goal to protect the cultural heritage, landscape and ecology of Mount Elgon, which are all under a number of threats from deforestation, fragile environment and low security.

Mount Elgon is an extinct shield volcano that sits on the border of Uganda and Kenya on the continent of Africa. It is believed that, twenty million years ago, Mount Elgon rose from surrounding African plains during a period of intense volcanic activity and became the highest peak in Africa. After years of erosion, Mount Elgon is known as the largest free-standing volcano

at four thousand three hundred and twenty-one meters high, 80 kilometres north to south and 50 kilometres east to west. It was also known as the tallest mountain, but after hundreds of years of erosion, the mountain has reduced in height; or as Charles described it, 'the top blew off'.

Living only 2000 meters from the lush forests of Mount Elgon, Charles spent his adolescent years exploring the range and caves. Growing up, Charles had a Kenyan ayah, who taught him to speak Swahili and appreciate its cultural traditions, which allowed him to connect with locals and create lifelong friendships. Charles explained to me how his passion for flora and fauna had started at a very young age, and how he could confidently navigate the mountain, even now.

As a key advisor, and fluent in the Swahili language, Charles works directly with the scouts who maintain protection of the caves and cave elephants. A unique endemic species to Mount

Elgon, the cave elephants had a large population, estimated to have peaked at 2000 elephants before the 1970's, when they were heavily poached for their tusks. The population was reduced to a meagre 40 elephants on the Kenya side of the mountain and eradicated from the Ugandan side. When poaching became illegal, a new threat emerged- local farmers began clearing forest to use the lush land, and the elephants would raid the farms for food.

The cave elephant is a unique species that travels deep into Mount Elgon to mine salt. No one knew how the mountain had become riddled with caves; many often thought it could be due to water rising and naturally forming the caves. Recently, it has been identified that the elephants are 'mining' the caves. Using their tusks, the elephants scrape the walls of the mountains to mine salt, which has caused caves to form throughout the mountain.

As our conversation continues, Charles' mobile rings and his face



lights up- it's one of the scouts calling. He quickly answers and starts loudly speaking to his friend in Swahili. Surprised, I look at Vicky who exclaims, 'If someone walked by now, they would think there was a fight in here!'. Vicky goes on to tell me how Charles and the scouts are very connected, most of them being his childhood friends. While Charles is closing his conversation with his 85-year-old friend, Vicky

starts to tear up and expresses how they have recently had a number of friend pass away. My view of the conversation flips as I realise how the Mount Elgon project isn't just about protecting the mountain and its species; it also about Charles and Vicky's connection with their homeland and, very much, with the people there.

When Charles finishes his call, he pulls out his tablet and shows me photos of his most recent trip to Mount Elgon. As he flicks through the photographs, I quickly realise most of the photos are of his friends- mostly scouts- who he bush camps with.

Charles chooses a photo of a young scout and he starts to speak about him. He pauses, taking a moment as emotion overwhelms him. The young man in the photo is educated and would like to further his education to achieve a wildlife management degree, which would give him the opportunity to become a warden. Musuoko is hoping to attend the same school Charles wanted to go to but didn't, because his parents wouldn't allow him. It is clear the pride Charles has for Musuoko, and I get the impression he sees a lot of his younger self in Musuoko and would like to support him with his goals. I feel privileged to share this moment with him.

The moment is fleeting and we're back to scrolling through photos. The next one is of Charles sandwiched between two older

scouts. I start to chuckle, and Charles looks at me. I point at the photo, set in the forest of the mountain- it is of their camp. There isn't much around them and they are sitting on a bench. Charles is dressed casually, but the men on each side of him, childhood friends Chemingwe and Kiberenge, have big smiles on their faces, and are wearing suit jackets. Charles explains that they regard him highly and will wear their best to represent their appreciation for his friendship. It makes me smile and reflect on the importance of longstanding friendships.

After sharing more memories, facts and anecdotes about his work, Charles puts the tablet down and tells me how the connection he has with the scouts and the foundation keeps him moving through life. It gives him a purpose and, essentially, a reason for living. While I initially thought I would learn about cave elephants, I was reminded of the importance of friendship, connecting to our roots, and how a passion is also a purpose.

### Mount Elgon Foundation

Find out more about the unique ecosystem in Mount Elgon- including the cave elephants- [mountelgonfoundation.org.uk](http://mountelgonfoundation.org.uk)



Images supplied by Charles Kerfoot.

Page 21: Musuoko - Scout, Stephen Powles - Key Advisor, Christopher Powles - Trustee Chair, Kelvin - Scout and Charles Kerfoot - Key Advisor.

Page 22: Cave Elephants walking through Mount Elgon.

Page 23: Top left: An angry bull. Top right: Chemingwe, Charles and Kiberenge (left to right). Above: Mount Elgon caves with visible markings from elephant tusks.