

**That's important to us,  
because after that, it  
means there are only five  
African countries left and,  
in our lifetime, we have the  
ambition to be privileged  
to adventure and do  
community work in every  
country in Mama Africa**

Bilene, and finishing up at the mouth of the Limpopo River near Xai Xai and the stunning Monte Belo lighthouse.

Many of the community initiatives were centred around a soccer match between local teams, with the villagers turning out in their droves to watch the game – but it's the mozzie nets that were clearly the biggest drawcard.

Each event was accompanied by a detailed education programme by local Shangaan interpreter and expedition regular Babu Cossa (originally from Bilene) who reinforced the why, when and how of using the nets effectively.

We also visited several smaller rural settlements where desperate poverty reigns supreme – yet the people are welcoming and grateful for the initiative, as the donation of nets is literally a matter of life or death.

As a fitting finale to this first section of the expedition, the convoy visited a rural school where the kids were each given a net, and taught about the importance of using them correctly. The sheer energy and delight emanating from that sparse, cramped classroom was infectious – and the personal reward felt by every member of the expedition team was overwhelming.

"King" often refers to the importance of symbolism in African culture. And indeed, I came

across a tangible sense of symbolism in the malaria project. It's quite astonishing that such a seemingly insignificant and insipid insect, in the form of the Anopheles mosquito, has such a devastating impact on the people of our vast continent.

Yet, in similar terms, it's clear that what started out as a relatively minor, selfless malaria prevention act initiated by the Holgate family has infected and inspired legions of fans, supporters, NGOs, sponsors and organisations around the world.

Spurred on by the UAM bracelet scheme, it's rapidly snowballing into a far-reaching programme that has the potential to turn the tide against malaria-related deaths stretching across all corners of the continent, from South Africa to the Sahara, from Somalia to Senegal. Symbolism in action ...

**What the...? Where's the Defender?**

When Africa's greatest explorer of modern times headed into Southern Africa for the Boundless Expedition in 2009, many dedicated Land Rover supporters were aghast that he swapped the rugged Defender for the plush Discovery 3.

This bold east-to-west journey crossed the continent, linking two oceans, nine countries, more than 30 game and nature reserves, seven transfrontier conservation areas and the communities alongside these areas.

"All we know is Land Rover Defenders – we've taken them around the world following the Tropic of Capricorn, on countless expeditions in the footsteps of the early explorers, and more recently on a 449-day journey to track the outside edge of Africa through 33 countries. They've been terrific workhorses," said the Greybeard of Adventure at the time.

"It's a big leap in faith changing from Defender to Discovery vehicles," chuckled Kingsley through his bushy beard. "We're not

sure how they will handle tough expedition conditions. We haven't even nicknamed them yet, but hey, we'll keep you posted!"

A few more editions of *Leisure Wheels* get printed – we hear nothing. But as Kingsley always says: while the Swiss might have developed the clock, remember it's Mama Africa who owns the time. Then we get this dispatch, together with some pictures – a sort of campfire story called: "Discos can do it".

**Discos can do it**

With all the activity around the humanitarian work we do, extra Land Rovers and a number of volunteers have joined in to help and, as always after a hard day, around the campfire at night we get to discussing 4x4s: the fastest, the toughest, deep water crossings, mud and deserts, tyres, roof racks, bullbars, suspensions and loading capacity.

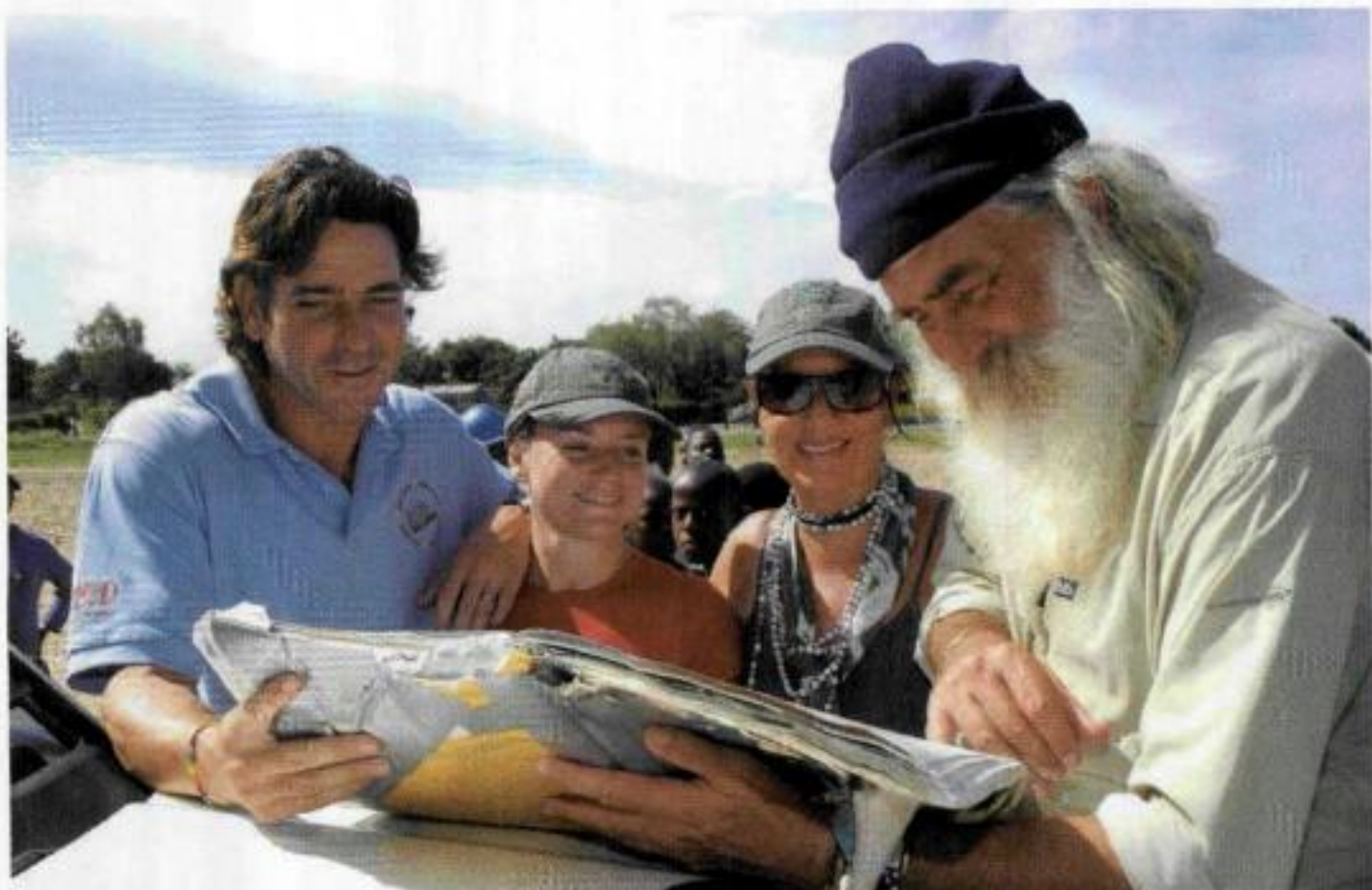
Another enamel mug of Captain is poured and some goat sizzles on the coals. Tonight I'm having my leg pulled.

"You look great in an old Landy Defender. But now you're pulling the ring out of it," laughs Hugh Roe, who's just flown in to the Zambezi from Cape Town. He's a great guy to have on expedition – he's even been with us down the Niger to Timbuktu, as a volunteer on the recent Outside Edge Expedition.

"But to see you and Ross leading the convoy in Land Rover Discoverys – isn't that an incredible break in Defender tradition?" questions Hugh again with a broad grin.

"You're bloody right," I reply, as I throw another piece of camelthorn on the fire. "It was a huge leap in faith, but I'd figured we'd done our time in old Landy Series 1s, 2s and 3s, forward controls, TDi's and, remember Hugh, we even took two Defender Td5's around the world on the Tropic of Capricorn.

"We've had the shake, rattle and roll, the familiar growling of the engine, the hum of the transmission, rain leaking onto the accelerator



Above, left: The Holgates – Ross, Anna, Gill and Kingsley – doing what they love and live for: plotting an adventure on a map, through Africa; Above, right: But adventure is only part of the deal. The real deal is to distribute life-saving mosquito nets to help fight the dreaded malaria disease. Here Land Rover SA marketing and sales manager Andy Goy hands over a net to a young Mozambican mother.