



the Northern Territory, to Alice Springs, Uluru-Ayers Rock and the many National Parks in the area as well as traversing the endless Simpson and Tanami deserts in middle Australia. Then, their 4x4 car took them to “explore” tropical Queensland from the Gulf of Carpenteria, right down the eastern coast of this massive land, with stops in Brisbane, Port Macquarie, and Newcastle and currently in Sydney.

Before ferrying their 4x4 left wheeled car across to Western Australia, in which they sleep in it, cook in it, update their website in it or provide almost daily radio interviews with Thessaloniki FM Radio for the audiences back home, Akis and Voula had been enriching their world knowledge and understanding with invaluable encounters with various peoples and countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Zaire, Congo, Egypt, South Africa, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Thailand and other parts of the Indo-China peninsula reaching south to Indonesia to name a few. Their driving and stay in these countries were packed with mostly positive experiences although some of them did present many challenging situations, such as, when their car broke down completely in the 2004-tsunami-affected areas of the Indonesian archipelago waiting for outside assistance for days or travelling very closely to ‘dangerous’ fratricidal war zones in certain countries or getting sick in regions where health standards was and continues to be an issue. Akis and Voula though have been resilient and have been ‘bouncing back’ if any difficulties were encountered en route. Their attributes are undoubtedly a positive humane attitude and resolving of any unexpected situation and a drive to continue...driving on.

After Sydney, the Macedonian couple is making its way to the Australian capital city of Canberra and then onto the southern state of Victoria, stopping in Melbourne. Both know that they will be visiting one of the most beautiful modern cities in which almost 300.000 Hellenes reside and on their exploring the city, they will meet Greeks and more Greeks and more...Greeks and of course non-Greeks! Although their travelling is performed with a certain degree of flexibility and no tight schedule is ad-

hered to, Akis and Voula will be making their way back to Sydney by the weekend, late April/early May for a few more days to explore the city and its surrounds and meet more people and Greeks from the community. Then it will be time to embark their “car-home” onto a ship bound for either New Zealand or straight to the American continent as planned. Once America is done from north to south or south to north, (still debatable between them as to which direction should they tackle the Americas), their next stop will be back to Europe and therefore closer to home, Greece. Their car has clocked tens of thousands of kilometres, whilst their digital video and photo cameras have uncountable pictures, scenes and personal interviews that constitute a unique treasury of authentic empirical human moments and there is... more to come.

Their impressions, adventures and various encounters are recorded by the use of an “electronic diary” via their own website which they themselves maintain and administer. It is a worthwhile webpage for anyone who would like to follow them from their luxury of their home. A click onto www.theworldoffroad.com will take the reader onto Akis’ and Voula’s tour of 800 days and the posting of electronic communication for these modern Greek... adventurers.

Alexander the Great from Macedonia stopped exploring the world when he reached the western frontiers of India in ancient times; this modern Macedonian couple, Akis and Voula, is exploring the world further and their love for humanity is their underlying passion!

Enjoy the rest of your journey guys!

Dimitrios Kametopoulos

Reporters’ Note: Efforts are made for Akis and Voula to make a public appearance to meet in person the local Sydney Greek community on the evening of Monday 4 May at a Greek hall and share the experiences with everyone present so far. Readers need to be in tune with the local Greek media (radio and print media) if such an event is organised for the exact location and timing at this unique opportunity to be present.

