



CAMPERS CHATTER

XMAS CAMP DIE WATERGAT

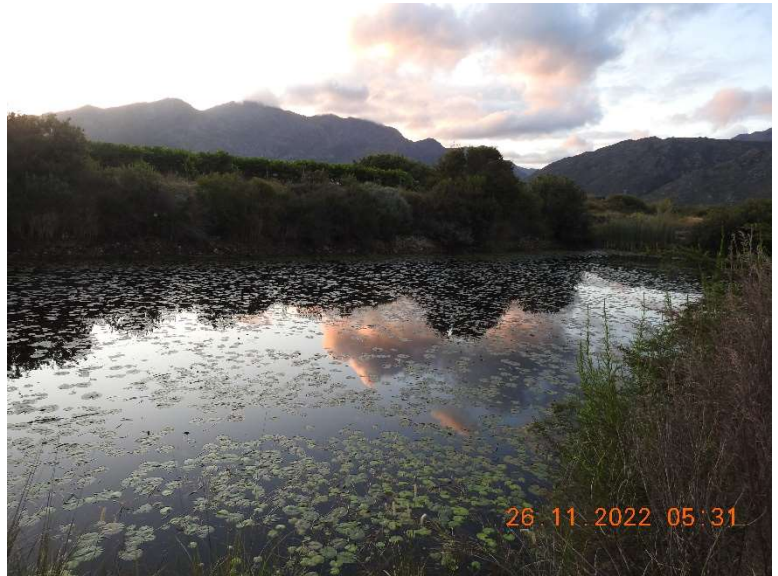
25 – 27 November 2022

Thank you Greg for the camp report and all those that contributed to the photos.

Campers

Members: Johnny & Sandy, Trevor & Sandy, Martin & Annette, Theo & Libby, Mariaan, Annie, Ruth, Pieter & Maureen, Nadia, Gianni & Sally, Gary & Barbs, Helen, Andy & Sandy, Greg & Glynn.

Guests: Red and Jenny

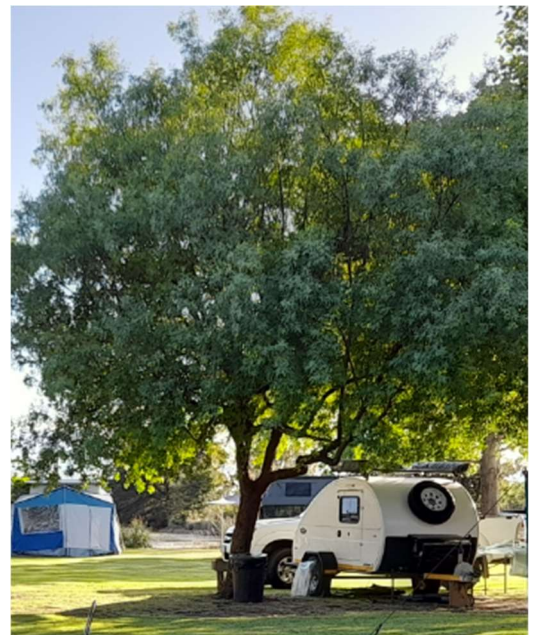


During the weeks leading up to the Xmas camp I had chatted to some members about the upcoming camp and all were looking forward to the camp with great enthusiasm and expectation.

Friday morning arrived, sunny and a bit windy. Johnny, Sandy, Martin, Annette, Glynn and I met for an early relaxing brekkie at Ou Stokery. We arrived at camp shortly before midday expecting to be the first to arrive, only to find Annie in waiting. Andy, Theo, Libby, Mariaan, Trevor and Sandy arrived shortly thereafter. After setting up and relaxing with a drink in hand (of course, mostly of an alcohol nature), we sat around waiting for Ruth to arrive as there was a rumour floating around town that she was arriving towing a “tiny pint” caravan.

Well Ruth did not disappoint. She road into camp as if she was in the old wild west, right up to where we were sitting in the shade and glared at us with that “ok you guys, I’m here, now start setting up” look, a look which only Ruth can give 😊 – and then she smiled, happy to be at camp. She gleefully gave us this “long” tour of tiny pint – simple enough to set up except for the stays and jockey wheel, which had Johnny, Martin, Andy and myself scratching our heads a bit on how it all fitted together. Persistence prevailed and we eventually figured it out.

Gary, guests Red and Jenny, Sandy W, Gianni and Sally, Pieter and Maureen arrived during the afternoon and set up. Barbs, due to work commitments, arrived early evening.





Everyone gathered at the communal area on the Friday evening, an evening which turned out to be extremely festive with lots of chatter and laughter. There was even some fascination as we watched Theo braaiing his potatoes in a braai grid and enquiring about the preparation details. They looked delicious and after tasters were passed around, all agreed "they were delicious". Libby, our recently discovered fire master, was the lead in keeping the fires very much flamed. As the evening wore on, the numbers slowly dwindled as folks strolled off to bed. Annie, Andy and I were the main stayers and we finally put the fires to bed and retired shortly after midnight.

Unfortunately, we had a very angry and unwanted guest arrive on Friday evening, the Cape Doctor. He huffed and puffed from Friday evening until Sunday morning, gusting very badly and spewing his very cold breath over proceedings on the Friday and Saturday evening.



Saturday morning dawned sunny and windy. A lazy morning for all of us to enjoy coffee and breakfast at our own leisure. During the morning Helen arrived and set up. Theo, Libby, Mariaan, Annie, Andy, Sandy, Red, Jenni, Gary and Barbs all went off to taste and buy some wine. On their return we all marvelled at the amount of wine that Andy and Red had in the back of their bakkie. Included in the bakkie winery, was 6 cases of wine which one of our ladies had bought. She will remain nameless but I am sure that during the upcoming festive season Annie will enjoy every drop – oops 😊 – Annie, you go girl.



During the early afternoon Nadia arrived. Before long it was mid to late afternoon and we all began getting ready for the Xmas camp evening festivities. Gazebos were set up, tables and chairs arranged and the various duties attended to in setting out the snacks, sangria etc.

The Xmas festivities started off with the "Pass the Parcel" game. Lots of laughter and joyful screaming throughout the game. There were 25 of us at camp so the inner square of the table setup was very large and I have to admire Sandy VR – so many sixes were thrown that she must have run a kilometre or two in collecting and passing the parcel from participant to participant – well done Sandy – give that lady a cold Savanna. The eventual winner of the main prize, which was a handy UltraTec Portable Zapper Lantern, was Mariaan – well done Mariaan.





After the game we each had to decorate our tables with Xmas decorations. The effort put in by everyone was just speechless. The last Xmas camp where we decorated tables was at Blinkwater in November 2019. The decorations then left us in awe but Sandy VR hit it perfectly when she said that the Blinkwater decorations just went up a good few notches. We had to vote which table was the best decorated table. This honour went to Sally and Gianni – the prize being a bottle of wine for each. Well done you two.



The fires were lit for the braai. The main dish consisted of fillet with pepper sauce, baked potatoes and salad. Johnny was tasked with braaiing the fillet, a task that Johnny relishes and he did not disappoint. The pepper sauce made by Libby and Theo was the perfect accompaniment.

The dessert choice was ice cream, hot chocolate sauce, strawberries / blueberries and koeksisters. Mariaan's homemade koeksisters' were a hit. I for one am not a sweet dessert person but I had a koeksister – OMW – so tasty. By this time everyone had settled around the communal fires. Saturday evening was even more festive than Friday evening with everyone once again joining in the laughter and chatter and this time Libby really led the charge in keeping the fires flamed – give that lady a flame thrower.

As on Friday, folks eventually found their way to bed with the main stayers being Red, Pieter, Annie and me. It took a good few jugs of water to douse the heat to make the fires safe from the Cape Doctor and we eventually retired at about 12:45 a.m.

Sunday morning was once again a leisurely sunny but windy morning. After breakfast campers one by one slowly packed up, said their goodbyes and headed out.

In my time as a member of the club, this was easily the best and most enjoyable Xmas camp and I would like to thank each and everyone of you for making it so memorable. A huge thank you also to everyone who was tasked with providing a service or dish, no matter how big or small, which went a long way to this being such a successful Xmas camp.

Martin and Annette had booked the campsite a long time ago for a family camp but when the club could not find a venue for the Xmas camp, they offered the site to the club. We all agree that this site is amazing so in closing, a huge thank you to Martin and Annette.

Happy holidays everyone and a Merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year.

