



CAMPERS CHATTER

Thank you Michelle & Chloe for the camp report and video

BREEDE OTTER – Worcester
AKA– “the long walk to freedom (pee-dom)”
14 to 16 February 2020



Campers

Trevor and Sandy Biggs
 Craig and Rina Wilson
 Gary and Barbara Amory
 Helen Constantinides
 Joe and Cheryl Faktor

Greg and Jenni Pratt
 Gianni and Sally Carchesio
 Greg and Glynn Nieuwstad
 Michelle, Chloe and Michael Graf
 Johnny & Sandy van Rooyen

Guests

Zorba and Anel – Rina & Helen's brother & partner

Packed the trailer and car early in the morning with the expectations that I could pull the kids out of school early. Only to receive a message saying that classes have been moved around and therefore Chloe needed to stay until end of school day. Eventually picked the kids up after school, said Goodbye to my brother, who was leaving to go back to Australia the next day, and started to head out of Fish Hoek !! Well, what's usually no more than a 10min drive took us nearly 1hr. Eventually got through Muizenberg and hit the Strandfontein open road.



We decided to travel Sir Lowry's Pass route as opposed to Du Toitskloof Tunnel. Got to see different parts of the Cape and, no Friday afternoon Durbanville Hill traffic to fight through, was a bonus.

We arrived rather late, around 18:30 but the sun was still high and HOT !!

Even though Sandy had pinned the site on Whatsapp, we, in true Graf style - strayed and got LOST ! Of course we weren't really lost because, as luck would have it, we arrived at none other than the farmers house !! So, he jumped onto his bike and escorted us to the camping site.



We arrived to see the camp site was a full house. The farmer's family #farmerscrewandthegang, had brought all their friends & families for a weekend away. Fortunately, our not so little travelling community got the best location. By the time we arrived, almost everybody was there ! Correction, we were the last to arrive !

As usual, the troops rallied and helped us with putting up our tent. Michael seem to have found a friend within 5min of arriving. Which Zoey, aka Chloe, and I were only too pleased about as we could then set up

the tent in blissful peace ! A short while later everybody started making their own fires and sorting themselves out for dinner. Greg N. very kindly cooked our meat with his and Glynn's.

Just because we were camping didn't mean that we didn't get to live through some of that 'LOAD SHEDDING' conspiracy. It hit us at 22:00 and shortly after most people retired to bed as well.

It was rather hot during the night, and some of us campers had to listen to Afrikaans' liedjies' and a pumped up version of 'Dames' by Biggy, until midnight, from the #farmerscrewandthegang.

SATURDAY

Next morning, woke around 6am with no wind and the sun was already warming up the tent. Knew we were in for a scorcher of a day. Again entertained by load shedding at 8am. Most of us realised too late that we weren't able to boil water and therefore huddled around Gianni & Sally's caravan as they have gas and could get a kettle boiled. The usual first morning chatter, jokes and grumbles paired with great coffee and biscuits.

Being a camping crew, some of us managed to be more 'off the grid' and in true 'up yours' to Eskom style, lit up the gas skottles, and champagne breakfasts were made.



Drinking, eating, swimming, kayaking, tubing, tanning and a boat trip was order of the day.

The local hangout for the weekend ended up being Grenni's (Greg & Jenni's), as they had the riverside spot, just without the jetty !!



Sally faked a damsel in distress while drifting down the river. Gianni had the chance to put his lifesaving jacket to the test... Only for them to both realise that they could actually stand. The tubes had to be saved on many occasions, as they floated by without passengers!

After most of us cooled down in the river, we all gathered at 'Grenni's' to sample the leftovers in Greg's liquor cabinet aka cooler box. And as we're all aware, with a bit of booze comes a bit of singing.. Okay, maybe after any booze, comes singing in general !

We were entertained with a bit of karaoke by Greg and Johnny. Requesting for the Dutchie to be passed from the left hand side !!

At 3pm, there was an 'All Aboard' calling for those who were going on the riverboat trip. In fact everybody made it, except myself as I prefer to keep my feet on solid ground. Little birdies aka (photo evidence) told me that there was on board entertainment provided with the likes of some pole dancing and proving only women are capable of winning the chair challenge.



Upon returning, everybody disembarked safely and we all moved onto naps, showers, more swimming and some meal prepping.

We sat around the communal fire, had the usual Chairman speech and fines were issued.

The cooler Saturday night air was welcomed by most, especially after the scorching hot day.

With all the fun filled activities paired with a bit of drinking, some of us retired early. But some die hards chatted until late'ish before retiring for the night.

SUNDAY

After a much better night's sleep, it was back to load shedding for us at 8am. We were a little wiser to it, and everybody had their kettles on and coffee poured before cut-off !

Michael scored a breakfast being cooked for him by Greg N. I don't know how this child gets it right... He's like a modern begging Little Tom Sawyer !

Myself and the kids started packing up camp after breakfast (as we usually do). For us it's a 2.5hr trip home to Fish Hoek, shopping, washing, homework and getting ready for school, with one particular child who doesn't want to do any of that !

We took our drive back over Sir Lowry's. For me, the view when you come around the bend is just breathtaking. Especially seeing the coast line, it's home every time !

The rest of the crew probably took their time, as they usually do. Enjoyed a great breakfast and started their clearing up and clearing out.

We all made it home safely and another successful camping weekend done and dusted.

Nobody left camp, which is Testament to the awesome time we were all having. Actually I stand to be corrected... I think somebody did leave camp once or twice, it went something like... A car was started, driven 140m, switched off, ablutions used, car started, driven back 140m and parked. *(ED: 217meters measured on Google Earth – Hence the name of the camp)*

They say a picture paints a 1,000 words, so enjoy the video courtesy of Zoey, agh I mean Chloe. *(uploaded with photos on the website)*

Just for the record there was no passing of any Dutchie's from the left or the right hand side!!

FINES

1. Craig and Rina – For making me uproot my rig so that they could have a site on the front next to the river. They did arrive earlier than they usually do.
2. Gary – Letting his gate damage the fender on his Bakkie. I then caught him trying to remove the fender off my Bakkie – the Bugger!
3. Greg & Jenni – For starting to get to camps first on a regular basis just because they are Pensioners.
4. Michelle and Helen for buying the same type of Dome Tents – could have maybe chosen different colours.
5. Gianni – For not worrying about load shedding at camp or at home - when everyone in Table View has lights-out, he goes and switches on all the lights in his house to show his neighbour's that he's off the grid – the Bugger!

