



CAMPERS CHATTER

Thank you Libby for the camp report.

SILWERSTRAND - Robertson
AKA– “Keep Calm and Safe Camping”
20 to 22 March 2020

Campers

Trevor and Sandy Biggs Johnny & Sandy van Rooyen
Annie Solomon Frank & Nadia Ihle
Theo van Niekerk & Libby Scholtz

Guests

Tara, Frank & Stanley Vadas



My mother grew up on a farm outside of Robertson called “Rooihoogete”. My grandmother stayed in Robertson for many years after my grandfather passed on. My grandmother called Silwerstrand, Plantasie, not sure why.

Silwerstrand was our holiday resort for many December holidays. However, it has changed a lot over the years. Previously it was managed by the Municipality and now it's privately owned.

Even though we are concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not keep us away and we still get excited at the thought of camping.

On Tuesday we received a Whatsapp message from Sandy Biggs saying that Silwerstrand is still open for campers. I believed that Yzerfontein closed their camp site and some other Municipality camps. We were in luck. Dr Wayne Smith and family had to cancel due to work commitment because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Quite a few of the families cancelled the weekend camp and we respected their decision.

I took a day's leave on Friday so we could leave early as we had special permission from the camp owner to book in at 11h00. We left home at 09h00 and met Annaline, Tara, Frank and Stanley at 09h30 at the tunnel. We arrived at the camp ±11h20. This is the first time in approximately 50 camps over the years that we arrived before everyone else. We started setting up camp and were done before Johnny and Sandy arrived at 14h00 and just after Trevor and Sandy arrived. Myself, Annie, Theo and Tara played Rummikub and Tara took the boys swimming and enjoyed the water slide.

Johnny had a flat or correction; his vehicle had a flat just outside of the tunnel and was impressed with the attendance at the Shell garage that assisted him. After that, they had a well-deserved lunch at Rooiberg. Johnny was disappointed because his favourite beef pie was no longer on the menu.

Nadia and Frank arrived a bit later and everyone was settled in. On instruction of Sandy 2, no hugging, kissing etc we just waved hello.

Social distancing and camping:



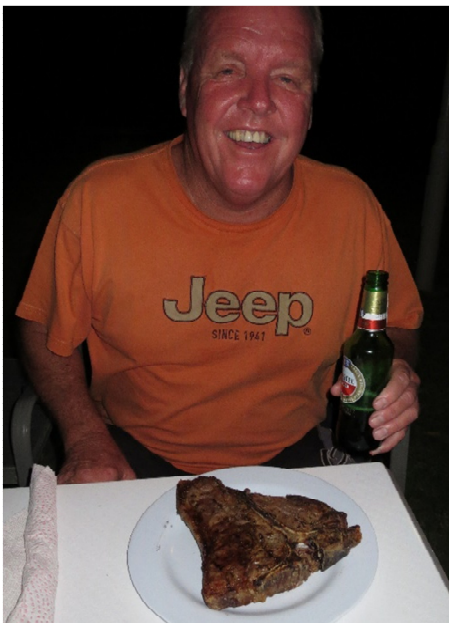
and hand sanitizing:



We sat around the fire until eleven o' clock that night chatting and laughing. Conversation regarding COVID19 came up a few times, but we tried not to think about it too much. Saturday morning, Tara was very energetic and went for a jog. There was a bad smell, like sewerage hanging over the camp site. Tara said it was even worst further away. With the dirt road just next to our plots it was very dusty as the cars went up and down. They did put the sprinklers on and that did help. Tara convinced Theo and Frank to kayaking with her. I had my doubts about Theo because he is not adventurer, but he surprised me. He and Tara went in a double kayak and Frank took a single. You can hire the kayaks for 2 hours, no bookings, 1st come 1st service basis.



Johnny made a 5 star breakfast with potato rostis, bacon, cheese grillers, onions etc. The weather was great, and there is enough shade. Everyone was very "rustig" and no one felt the need to go to town.



Saturday night we had our communal braai. Johnny made a bonfire and burnt all the wood. I must say that he had such a big steak that he needed a big fire. Luckily we still had more wood to make a "gesellige" fire.

Johnny and Trevor did the braai and Theo made a chicken and vegetable pot for us. Trevor made his chairman speech and because we were such a small group there were no fines issued. We had a great time around the fire with lots of laughter.

Sunday morning it was our chance for breakfast of bacon and eggs. After breakfast we started packing up as we needed to be out before 12h30 in order to get our deposit of R200 back for the gate remote. Tara took the boys for a swim while we were packing.

Overall it was a nice camp, good company, but will we go there again, not sure, there are a lot of rules for example, hot water only on weekends and only certain hours. Toilets near our plots that are at the far end are closed during the day, only open at night. The big ablutions are far away from the plots that we were on.

Thank you everyone for a nice camp, hope to see you in May at Ganzekraal.

Group Photo (please note that social distancing rules were adhered to) 😊

