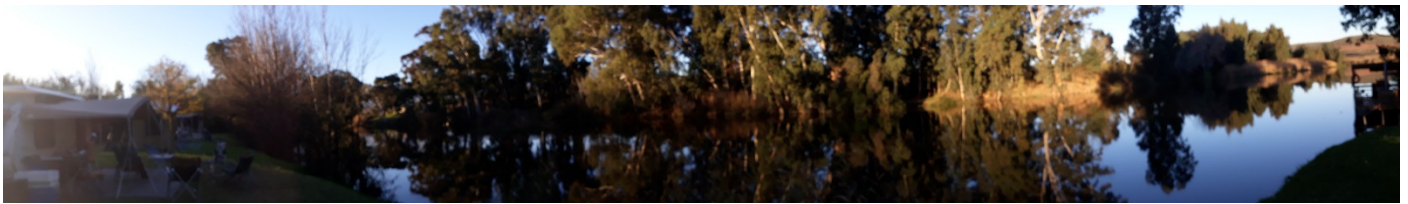




CAMPERS CHATTER

BREEDE RIVER GOOSE - BONNIEVALE 14TH to 17TH JUNE 2019



Thank you Sandy V for the camp report.

"PA'S and POTJIES"

CAMPERS:

Trevor and Sandy
Gianni and Sally

Gary and Barbara
Johnny and Sandy

Craig and Rina

GUESTS:

Martin and Annette

Greg and Glyn



What a wonderful winter camp we had at the River Goose Campsite (a new campsite we tried out and will definitely visit again), just outside Bonnievale, on Farm Eureka. It was a long weekend (plus Father's Day on the Sunday) so most of us enjoyed a three nighter which was a bonus. There is nothing better than lighting that fire on a Sunday night and enjoying a few cold ones knowing that you don't have to go to work on the Monday – what a pleasure. There were quite a few campsites (I think the internet says about 16), all grassed and some under trees, overlooking the Breede River.

Very neat sites, with sufficient portable braai's available. The ablutions were good although we did have a bit of a hiccup in the beginning with no water in the one ablution and no hot water in the other but this was soon sorted out by the farmer, Kelvin.

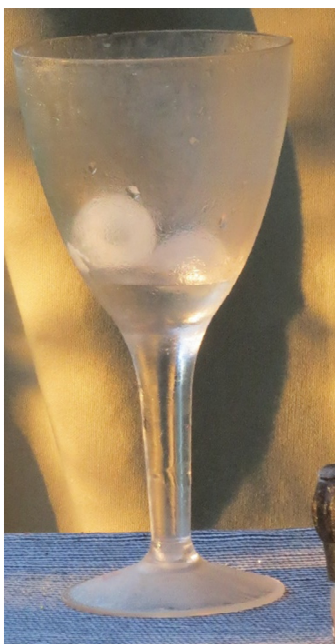
We were lucky enough to have the front sites right on the water's edge, no shade but being winter that was perfect. Plus we had the campsite to ourselves so we could make as much noise as we liked and believe me, it got quite rowdy at times especially with the Beer Ping Pong competition but more on that later.

Unfortunately we weren't able to leave Cape Town at our usual time on Friday because Johnny had to work (for a change) so we only left Table View at 3 pm. Decided to go via Philadelphia – a bit of a detour I know but at least we missed the afternoon traffic on the N1 which can take you at least an hour, bumper to bumper, at times which is very frustrating. The journey to the campsite was uneventful (luckily Trev and Sandy had stopped at Rooiberg on the way for lunch and liquor replenishments and picked up a couple of boxes of wine for me too – Happy Days) and we arrived to find quite a few of the campers Martin and Annette, Gary and Barbs, Trev and Sandy and Greg and Glyn already set up and enjoying the lovely sunshine with a few cold ones. Craig and Rina arrived after us and had to set up in the dark as usual – Gary set up a spotlight to assist them so they could at least see what they were doing and then Gianni and Sally only arrived Saturday afternoon due to family commitments.

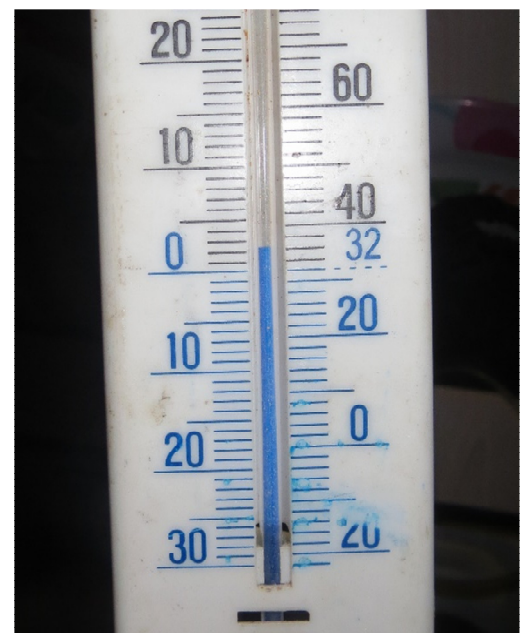
The fires were lit in the early evening as well as several konkas to keep everyone warm which were very welcome because once that sun went down, the night air turned rather chilly and jackets, beanies and scarves had to be hauled out. A great evening of laughs and lots of eating and drinking was had by all but eventually everyone drifted off to their caravans and rigs to turn in for the night. With no electricity at the campsite it was back to good old fashioned hot water bottles to keep us warm (and snuggling of course 😊) except for Gianni and Sally who have an inverter so were still able to have their electricity blanket on – the lucky fishes.



Saturday morning we woke up to frost on the grass and a thin layer of ice on the car roof. Everyone was rather reluctant to exit their nice warm beds and some only managed to do so quite late in the morning. Once the day progressed however and the sun came out, it was a beautiful winter's day with no wind.



Talk about hitting a "purple patch" with the weather this weekend, we really could not have asked for better.



Ice still frozen in glass from night before

temp at 7.30am

Martin and Annette decided they were going to pop into town quickly but when they tried to start their vehicle, the battery was completely dead.



There was panic stations for a short while but luckily not for long as Trev hooked the Isuzu up to Martin's vehicle and soon the Toyota Prado was purring once again. Well done "Chuck" for saving the day again! Craig and Rina also went off to town and came back with some very interesting liqueur bottles and tales of many many tastings at the TimJan Wine Shop in Bonnievale. Everyone was back by lunch time so we all tucked into some delicious soup and bread which filled the tummies. Saturday night was again spent around the fires and konkers and the jokes and laughter just didn't stop.

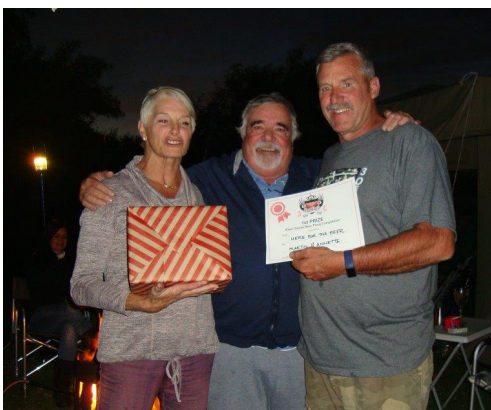
Sunday morning, "Father's Day", there was a special delivery for each of the Fathers and one God-Father (aka Johnny) from Sandy Biggs – most of the chocolate however was devoured way before breakfast was even served. After lunch it was time for the Father's Day Beer Ping Pong game. The teams were made up of husbands and wives and each team picked a Beer Ping Pong name out of the hat.

CRAIG AND RINA
GARY AND BARBS
TREVOR AND SANDY
GIANNI AND SALLY
JOHNNY AND SANDY
GREG AND GLYN
MARTIN AND ANNETTE

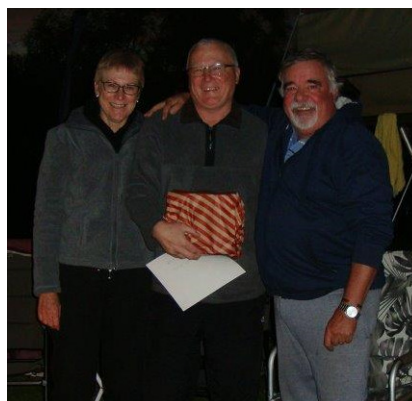
"BAR FLIES"
"SMARTY PINTS"
"BEERKATS"
"BEER GOGGLES"
"DESIGNATED DRINKERS"
"BLOOD, SWEAT AND BEERS"
"HERE FOR BEER"



Well all I can say is that there was a lot of cheating going on but much hilarity as teams vied against each other for the 1st and 2nd spots. In the end, the winners and the runners up were the newbies – Martin and Annette (1st) and Greg and Glyn (2nd).



WINNERS



RUNNERS UP

Whilst the potjies were started in the afternoon by most of the campers, Craig decided he was going to try a spot of fishing. Well it wasn't long before there were shouts and screams from the other end of the campsite that he'd caught a fish and everyone dashed over to the little barge to see what he had caught – a beautiful golden coloured large carp. Whilst trying to bring in his fish however, poor old Craig had lots of unwelcome helpers who joined him on the little rickety barge and at one stage, I thought one or more of the men were going to be taking an unexpected swim as the barge rocked precariously from side to side. Luckily with the help of the fishing net, the carp was landed safely and photos were taken for the record before the fish was again released.



After all the excitement it was back to the potjies and the refilling of glasses – phew fishing for spectators is thirsty work. As the sun got lower and lower, the fires and konkas were once again lit in readiness for the evening and all gathered around for the Chairman's Chat, Fines and Prize Giving. Caramel Liqueurs were handed around to the losers of the Father's Day Beer Ping Pong Competition and then the 1st and 2nd prizes and certificates were handed to the newbies. Well done Martin & Annette and Greg & Glyn. Another great evening was had with a lot of banter going on. Another round of caramel liqueurs and delicious jam tarts for dessert made by Oumie to finish off. What more can you ask for!

Monday morning woke up to an overcast sky with the sun trying its hardest to peep through. Had to wait a while for the sun to appear to allow our tents to dry out from all the dew. In the meantime, we enjoyed some hearty breakfasts and then slowly packed up after another amazing winter camp!

FINES

1. Martin – for forgetting their Wedding Anniversary (33rd).
2. Craig – for not getting Sandy #2's permission to dunk his eat-some-more biscuit into her coffee and if you know Sandy, she hates dunking!
3. Gary – for not doing a good stock take and running low on beers. Luckily he likes red wine which he had plenty of.
4. Gianni & Sally – for being able to have an electric blanket (no electricity at the campsite) and for also bringing almost 501 metres of extension lead. Rina sms'ed Sally to say if you bring a very long lead – about 501 metres, you can hook up to the farmer's house ☺ They ended up bringing as much lead as they could and were even contemplating on stopping in Robertson to buy some more ☺☺
5. Martin again! For letting his battery go flat in his Toyota Prado – obviously we had to get "Chuck", our trusted Isuzu to the rescue.
6. Again Sally and Gianni for 'delaying' our Beer Ping Pong game for TWO mushrooms that they had to dash into town to buy. (Sally objected to this one because she was told the competition was going to start at 13h00 and they were back by 13h00 ☺)
7. Annette – for looking like a super model first thing in the morning before showering. (My wife has to wear a hat!)
8. Gary – for bringing a generator to a non-electrified camp. Noise pollution ☹.

9. Glyn – for polishing off Martin's bottle of sherry (she only had one glass ☺) – Martin had to try and start his vehicle to go into town to buy her a bottle of sherry.
10. Gary – for getting ready very early for Santa. It's only June and it's Christmas in July?

