TREKKERS OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB

LAAGER 1 NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2014

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Hi Everyone

Our National Annual General Meeting is just around the corner and five Laager 1 families are getting very excited as we count down the days until we leave to join the other Laagers in Port Elizabeth for this meeting. Four of the five will then do some exploring in the Eastern Cape and will arrive back just in time to join the rest of our Laager 1 family at Queensburgh - a lovely spot to end what, I am very sure, will be a wonderful touring holiday.

Before we get into more details about our Outspan at Queensburgh, we take this time to wish three of our members a fantastic day on their birthdays.

Happy birthday to …

7	*Sandra Acton*
7	*Agnes Vermaak*
25	*Hugh Acton*



and hope that you will have many more happy times.
[PS - I wonder where the Vermaaks will be to celebrate Agnes' birthday while they are away touring the country??]

NEXT OUTSPAN : QUEENSBURGH CARAVAN PARK : 24 - 26 OCTOBER 2014

OUTSPAN FEE:	**Per person per night**	**R85.00**
	Per child per night	**R55.00**
DISC FEE:	**Per Unit**	**R5.00**

A reminder that, as long as we have ten vans for the weekend, Corrie and Pieter will kindly allow us to arrive and spend Thursday at their lovely park free-of-charge.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: Communal tea-time - please bring a **plate of either sweet or savoury goodies** for the table

SATURDAY EVENING: We will have a Mongolian braai - the Club will supply all the vegetables and a sauce and we ask you to please bring your own **choice of protein** - plus something to cook the stir-fry in - e.g. **skottel, wok, electric frypan** etc. Sounds yummy!!

THOUGHTS ON OUR COMBINED OUTSPAN WITH THE SACC…

We always look forward to our Outspans at Karridene and this one was going to be a little different as we were to be hosted by the Natal Section of the South African Camping Club in reciprocation of our combined 'Irish Outspan' a while ago. Fred and I travelled down on Thursday [being country bumpkins now we need to plan shopping trips] and, low and behold; two vans had beaten us to it - Marguaretha who was with her mom and Marshall, and Allan. As we were setting up the wind turned from pleasant, to breezy to really gusting - the autumn leaves were being blown from one side of the park to the other before turning into a whirlpool at the ablution blocks. The Sand's awning was being battered and poles were flying so they decided to pull it all down, take Marshall and mom [who were not feeling happy] home and come back the next day. That left just the three of us, Allan, Fred and I, and we spent a very enjoyable evening, chatting and consuming a little red wine!

We woke to a drizzle and Fred and I went off on our shopping expedition and when we finally arrived back it was to find we had been joined by the Actons with daughter Nikki, Holdens, our 1st time visitors Dennis and Antoinette Mouton, the Morgans and Prinsloos and not long after this Mark arrived followed by the returning Sand's [minus mom] and their 1st time visitors, Ricky and Charlene Couto together with their son Ashley, making ten families altogether.

While we were away the resident monkeys had visited our van and Margaret had managed to rescue a packet of biscuits, but was concerned because one of the monkeys had taken something and left in on the roof of the ablution block behind us. I rattled my brains but couldn't think what it could be and every time I took a walk to the loo, tried in vain to make out what this lavender-blue thing was.



After spending a great afternoon together, chatting, catching up, men watching rugby etc. it was time to join the Camping Club for a combined braai and a very pleasant evening it turned out to be. There were seventeen SACC members and it was very nice for Fred and I to reminisce with them as we had been members of their club many, many years ago. As folk started drifting off to bed, we Trekker folk took our leave and went back to our Laager where we found our fire drum all lit up - a lovely welcoming fire. So, of course, we had to sit around and enjoy it and soon it was midnight - time for bed. [Before bed, it was for me, bath time, and did I enjoy it - lovely lashings of hot water as always - did I mention we have water restrictions in Umdoni and have to count every drop used!! Absolute bliss - I always love my bath.]

Saturday - another beautiful Natal spring day - which we all enjoyed in our own way - some sleeping in, Mark up with the sparrows to drive back to Durbs to do a Wildlife walk and then fetch Vanessa and Millie, some shopping, some visiting and later the ladies got together for the first time in a very long time to sharpen their card skills. Most enjoyable. As the sun started to set, we then had to think about what to wear to the SACC 'Hawaiian' evening - and there were some very interesting costumes. We were greeted with a glass of juice, complete with an umbrella straw and, as we sat chatting the SACC children [and Hughie] were showing us their skill with some hula hoops [brought back memories of when we were young!] Strange how, not only fashions and songs, but also games keep coming back. We were then invited to 'make a burger' with delicious chicken fillets and an array of accompaniments to choose from. As we Trekkers had been asked to supply the puds. I went off to the van to warm mine up and heard lots of laughter and discovered that, while I was gone, a hula-hoop competition had taken place - Hugh had been awarded a prize for 'effort' and Millie had won the grown-up competition. Congratulations to you both. Later we took our leave of the SACC folk and waddled back to our vans, tummies full of burgers and puds to find, once again, our fire burning and Sandra mixing up the balance of the ice cream with some Kahlua, kindly donated by Margaret. Great bedtime drink!

We were asked to come to the Camping Club's meeting on Sunday morning where thanks were exchanged for a lovely weekend. A draw then took place for some Hampers and our visitors, the Coutes, were lucky enough to win one. To my great surprise, Fred and I were awarded a prize for the 'most elegant couple' at

the Hawaiian evening. On returning to our vans it was decided to have a quick informal Indaba.

The next Outspan was discussed and it was decided that our '100 Club' draw and the fine master will take place at Queensburgh. A hamper which had been donated to us was drawn and Fred and I were the lucky winners. It definitely was our lucky weekend and even more as it was our 400th Outspan with Trekkers, Laager 1.

Sadly, another weekend had come to a close and everyone, except the Actons who were staying on till Monday so that Ryan, Toni and their families could spend time with Nikki on Sunday, started packing up.

I hadn't stopped looking up at the roof of the ablution block and, hitched up and ready to go, Sandra took a photo and, on zooming in, we realised that the monkeys had stolen my pill container and there were a couple of pills sitting on the tiles! Security came along with a ladder and rescued it for me - the monkeys had managed to open all the lids except for 'M"[onday]! Hope their blood pressure and cholesterol is now under control.



I am sure that you will all agree that we had a super weekend and thank our hosts, Graeme Dibben and his members for their hospitality and hard work - it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

NEWS ... NEWS ... NEWS ...

Hugh and Sandra took Nikki up to Pretoria where she will spend a year working for the church - hope we will see you again soon when you have some time off.

Travel safely

JOAN

My bumper sticker for October is ...

Life is like a see-saw ride;
full of ups and downs!

PS I **saw an interesting programme on TV the other night which revealed that no dead penguins have ever been found on the ice in Antarctica. The reason is that the rest of the flock dig a hole in the ice, maneuver the body into the hole and then cover it with crushed ice and snow. Then they stand in a circle around the grave and sing: "Freeze a jolly good fellow…."**

…… **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE: As soon as you have finished reading this Newsletter and you have not already done so, let Lynda know on either her mobile, 084 359 2554, or email at Indberg25@gmail.com if you *will or will not* be caravaning at QUEENSBURGH and exactly when you will be arriving. Thank you.**