TREKKERS OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB

LAAGER 1 NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

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Hi Everyone

The National Annual General Meeting weekend has come and gone and, judging by all the comments, Laager 1 did a good job and everyone had a great weekend. I want to thank all those folk who travelled far and wide to be with us and, to those who stayed on, we hope that you had a great time in KZN. The AGM also went off very well and we congratulate the entire National Committee which was re-elected en-bloc. Thanks also to everyone for their help, most importantly to the members of Laager 1 - we may be small but we can achieve plenty - the goodie bags were filled with items we had made and acquired; the food was fabulous and plentiful and the camaraderie was second to none. Our sponsors, who were named in the programme, were very generous with their donations - thank you all too. I am sure that we all felt the same great sense of achievement once the weekend was over; the tent dismantled; tables and chairs returned; the food tent emptied etc. etc. when we could all relax and heave a sigh of relief that it would be another 5 years before our turn will come around once more to host this very important event in Trekkers calendar.

Two Laager 1 members have already celebrated their birthdays this month - but there is still one to go …



Hugh Acton whose big day is the 25th



Wishing you a wonderful, happy day surrounded by lots of love and joy.

NEXT OUTSPAN: LALANATHI : 23 - 25 OCTOBER 2015

OUTSPAN FEE:	**Per Person per day**	**R85.00**
DISC FEE:	**Per Unit**	**R5.00**

FRIDAY: D Y O

SATURDAY ± 2.00 Please bring a plate of sweet or savoury goodies for the tea table

± 7.00 It's braai time again - please provide one of your delicious salads for the communal salad table.

REPORT ON THE 2015 NAGM HELD AT QUEENSBURGH CARAVAN RESORT

There is always something very different and challenging about being Fine Master at an NAGM. There are a whole lot more "new" and strange Trekker faces attending the Outspan, some not always wearing name tags, and some only being "naughty" amongst their own. Here the Fine Master's Friend proved very useful.

The NAGM "Weekend" starts almost at the completion of the previous year's one, but for most of Laager 1 however, the real work started on the Wednesday. "Spaceman" Allan Shepherd was as usual first on site, (nobody was going to get his "spot") sporting a new tow car. The Chev Captiva was indisposed so Allan was there in a loan vehicle. Vicky, in Suzy, with husband Ron riding shotgun arrived, and after what seemed an eternity finally managed to find a "*level"* parking. This was "Spaceman" Allan's fault, for continually saying "*Doesn't look level from here*". John Morgan, trailer in tow, was an invaluable part of our team. The Club tent was brought in from the Acton's home, followed by 60 chairs and 12 trestle tables from the local church. Fred after almost crippling Allan, John, Les and I, suddenly realised that the way he had been instructing us to erect the club tent was totally wrong. Once we had all regained our strength we found that the recognised alternative, and correct method required a lot less grunt and groan on our part, and in no time the tent stood proud and tall. Chairs and tables were quickly put in place. Pride of position went to the Raffle table, adorned with a splendid array of prizes. Top prize was a wonderful 2 plate compact oven, donated by the Mouton's.

Wednesday evening the fires were lit, and jaffles were the order of the day/night. After the earlier tent fiasco, most of the men were totally "finished" and called *time*. Thursday dawned, another hot and sunny day. Laager 1 Ladies busied themselves with filling all the Goodie bags, decorating the tables, and getting the food organised in the "add-a-room pantry" complete with freezer. In the meantime, armed with one of the Resort's two-way radios, I awaited the arrival of our first out-of-town guests. Thando at the security gate would call me with the guest's name, and I would indicate to him which side of the driveway they should use. It worked very well, and by the afternoon all 12 of our Thursday visitor families had arrived and been directed to their sites. This included the very friendly but somewhat rowdy Laager 18 members who all tented on the lower levels.

That night fires were lit for all the Trekkers, at the built-in braai area. Also braaing, but alongside us was a certain Pierre Chauvet who was a private visitor to the Resort. He had just got his (*private*) fire ready when Vickie placed her "fly-swotter" meat holder over his fire. He took it in good humour, even offering to cook the meat properly for her. I almost exploded when a certain Mark Ebelthite took up what was left of the unfortunate Pierre's fire with his large steaks. "This can happen", I was later informed, when "one does not know who all the actual Trekker guests are". It was all taken in good humour however, and Pierre is now very keen to join Trekkers. Perhaps to get his own back??

On Friday the balance of our six Trekker visitor families arrived. Thando told them "proceed down the right hand side" where I would be waiting. Sadly the last 4 families totally ignored his instructions and proceeded down the left hand

side. Here my physical fitness really came to the fore as I was forced to sprint to the other side of the Park each time.

The official weekend started with soup on Friday evening followed by a “Meet and Greet” sherry evening. Here Allan did a great job, and was even seen charging his “patrons” the cost of a raffle ticket to re-fill their glasses. By the look of him at the end of the evening he must have also “bought” himself a whole bunch of tickets. This was accompanied by some great snacks in the form of samoosas, pate, and fish mousse with biscuits. Antonette and Annie did a fantastic job in managing to sell pages and pages of raffle tickets, stopping I am told, just short of harassment.

The breakfast and lunch Teams did a great job in feeding us all, leading up to the NAGM which in itself was a great success. When the official side of things were over, afternoon tea was served with cream scones and sausage rolls.

To save time on Sunday morning for our departing East London guests, we held the raffle draw on Saturday afternoon. Number 19 as usual did not appear, but lucky Mark Ebelthite, with his usual “quiet grace”, walked away with the main prize.

With everyone seemingly still full, it was decided to delay the official dinner until 20H00, and also to give the rugby enthusiasts a chance to support the Boks. Having witnessed the Boks victorious, we all tucked into a delicious lasagne, followed up by a scrumptious desert. Dancing followed, and by midnight it was time to call it quits.

With the weather still holding we brought Sunday’s Indaba forward to 09H00. Name tags featured quite high on the list of fines with Geno and Mark losing their name tags even before the festivities had properly started, and poor Fred and I were not even issued ours. “Spaceman” Allan featured extensively, although his fall from grace over his chair on Thursday night must have dented his NASA come-back expectations. Although a lot of hard work, the NAGM was a great team effort, by all Laager 1 members, and a huge success. We have set the bar very high, and everyone can be justifiably proud. Well done to all.

Hugh.

Thank you for the write-up Hugh and it is thanks to Corrie and Piet de Bruyn for accommodating us at their lovely park, for the super raffle prize they donated and, most of all, for their friendship to all our Laager members. We also wish them both a fabulous holiday in Australia with their daughter and her family.

And here are a few photos taken during the weekend …



Friday evening - enjoying a meal while getting to know everyone





Laager 1’s Mark Ebelthite who not only cooked all our burgers for lunch on Saturday but was the winner of the main prize of a Table Top Stove and Oven donated by Antonette Mouton of Payroll Tax Specialists.



A very happy Bev Haughton of Laager 3 who was the lucky winner of one of our prizes - Caravanparks.com’s donation of a folding braai.



National Executive 2015\2016:



Listening attentively at the NAGM

Robin Holmes [Committee Member], Nola Holmes [Secretary], Gavin Younger [President] and Mike Bouchardt [Treasurer]



Denton Estment, one of the founders of Trekkers, was being presented with a copy of the Jurgens Book as well as the latest edition of the ‘Camp and Live’ guide by the re-elected President, Gavin Younger. After the NAGM Denton, who was one of our founder members, regaled us with the story of the formation of our Club 40 years ago. Denton and Lynda were the Guests of Honour at our NAGM meeting on Saturday and joined us for dinner in the hall that evening.









Some of our lady ‘waitrons’ waiting to serve the delicious dinner and dessert on Saturday evening



…… **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 bergbarlyn1@gmail.com IF you *will or will not* be caravaning at Lalanathi and exactly when you will be arriving and departing. Thank you,

DIRECTIONS TO LALANATHI [from Allan]

From Durban:

- take the Hibberdene off ramp and travel through Hibberdene towards Port Shepstone
- After about 12 Kms you will come to Melville.
- Turn left into Melville Station Road and after about 300 metres you will come to the Park Gate.
- At the Melville Station Road turnoff there is a sign "Lalanathi Caravan Park".

If my directions are followed and you turn off the main road into Station Road it takes you to the gate.

The only caravan park sign is at Station Road.

Travel safely

JOAN

My bumper sticker for October is

Don't overlook life's small joys while searching for the big

Sign found outside a photography shop:

