DE WATERGAT OUTSPAN
23 TO 25 JUNE 2023

On Friday 23 June 2023, I arrived 2 pm-ish at Die Watergat camp just outside Rawsonville. Die Watergat is a lovely campsite, with every facility you could wish for. Situated on the edge of a dam on a working farm, it is booked exclusively on weekends. Yes - we get the whole campsite and therefore can let the hair down a touch more than considered normal. The only family to arrive after me was the Arulandus. Heard they got lost but not too sure about that, so don't share that. My excuse is that I had to make a turn in Worcester to sort out a roast veg order for the Saturday Communal braai, we had arranged. Total pitch for the weekend was 7 sites in total. Mr. Weatherman had forecast some pretty challenging weather for us.

Just love the Winter camps. Don't let the chill of winter stop you from getting back to nature. They are so more social with less time spent running around between the beach, the wine farms and making like a tourist, therefore more time spent kuiering around the geselsvuur. Friday night was a do-your-own thing and with the low temperatures ensuring we were all doing the same thing - braaiing, catching up, and soaking up the heat radiating out of our fire drums. Convinced all members were soundly tucked in before the bewitching hour.

Saturday started slowly for some of us with others doing what they needed to do. Considering an all-weekend fishing competition was in play, I decided to entertain the dam dwellers with some quality casting and retrieving moves. Had a bite or two. Lost a hook and sinker or three. Unfortunately, the Atkinson family had to leave as Ronnie was not feeling too well. With a bit of teamwork, we had them packed up and on the road in no time. Get well soon Ronnie.

By mid-morning the subject of making use of the 30% discount down at the Enchanted Oak Restaurant just outside Rawsonville, gathered momentum and most of our members hit the road and the restaurant for brunch. Ok, truth be told, some of us with the assistance of all the technology available to humankind, still managed to do a couple of laps of Rawsonville CBD before we arrived at the venue. Not a train smash, the extended travel time was worth every km. Wow - country town hospitality at its very best with excellent service to match. The food was very tasty and with the largest coffee mugs, I have seen in a while.

Thereafter back to the camp to chill, where we were pleasantly surprised to find that some fellow campers had decided to come out for the afternoon and pop in on us. Big thanks to the Vicars and the Cable families for making the effort to come and visit us. Early evening the organized communal braai fires got started and the food prep took off in earnest, especially those doing potjies. The rest of Saturday was spent in braaiing, potjieing, socializing, and doing what we do best - kuiering. Some of us even got beyond the bewitching hour.

Sunday arrived early and with impending rain clouds moving in our direction, most of us after a hurried breakfast started with the “wish we had a magic button” task, of packing up our rigs. There is something about taking home wet awnings, that doesn't work. Indaba was at 11 and hosted by Vice Chairman Wayne Hendricks and was done and dusted in an hour. Thereafter we said our goodbyes and hit the road, all getting home safely. Great weekend guys - you made it happen.

See you all at the next one.

Derick Sinden



