Laager 21

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CAMP CHRONICLES

OEWERZICHT CAMP – 22nd – 25th SEPTEMBER 2017

Background

Oewerzicht Guest Farm is situated about 9 km from the sleepy town of Greyton. It's surrounded by the Riviersonderend Mountains and situated in front of the Sonderend River. The Sonderend River runs through Oewerzicht farm and is the focal point of most leisure activities. A suspension bridge over the river is the only way, other than a boat or a float for guests to get from the main farm to the luxury tents on the banks of the river. Oewerzicht is a working farm, harvesting apples, pears, broccoli and cauliflower for most of the year. The rest of the farm consists of rolling wheat lands, large flocks of sheep and herds of cows. The farm offers 7 cottages (3 elegant cottages and 4 renovated workers cottages), six luxury tents and 26 camping sites. There are hiking trails, a 25 km mountain bike trail and it's an ideal place for bird watching.
The camp is also pet-friendly and the owner's two Boxers (Katy and Anna) are known to make themselves comfortable among the guests. One of them, Anna I think, made herself very welcome!

Friday 22nd September

The Cables arrived behind the Jurgens. The Smiths were already parked but not set up. Soon thereafter, the Sindens and Hendricks arrived. Consternation ensured because there was major confusion over where a camp site's parameters started and stopped. Eventually agreement was reached and everybody pitched/set up their caravan/tent/motorhome/rooftop tent/camper trailer. Other Trekkers arrived a bit later and found place to set up.
Power supply was a bit of an issue – limited number of poles with 4 power outlets. Everybody ending up sharing with someone else. The consequence of this sharing was frequent power outages due to over-demand of power.
Soon the fires were lit and everybody set about making something to eat before chilling around the camp fire and chatting.

Saturday 23rd September

Bonny and I decided to go into town for some breakfast and to have a stroll around the quaint little town of Greyton. We stopped at the Secret Garden for breakfast – combination nursery and restaurant. Greyton's Saturday Market was held next to the church and we decide to pop along to see what was on offer. We met up with a number of Trekkers there who had the same idea in mind. After the market we all strolled down the various roads, popped into some shops and then ended up at the 1854 pub. There Gavin met his cousin Rue who introduced his wife and young son. Bonny and I ended up chatting to her for most of our stay at the pub. We left a bit earlier than most of the Trekkers as we still needed to finish up some items for our hosting event that evening – our first ever hosting!

A number of Trekkers were a bit anxious with the evenings hosting affair as they were not asked to bring anything along to eat. Anxiety was about whether they going to actually eat anything for supper?! They were instructed to bring along a wok, skottle braai pan or paella pan. They could either cook on gas or on coals. That evening, around the fires and gas bottles, they were informed that they were going to cook their own dinner – Chicken Chow Mein. All ingredients were supplied and prepared, ready to cook. Cooking instructions were given and they went about cooking their meals. Chopsticks were handed as gifts to everybody and were the only choice of utensil to eat with! Great fun followed and everybody seems to have enjoyed themselves. Once tummies were satisfied, fires were started or replenished as the temperature dropped significantly. The usual fire-side banter ensured. Is it not amazing how the subject matters changes and varies during these sessions?

Sunday 24th September

Everybody decided to sleep in a bit later this morning. We still don't know how it was decided but the men ended up making breakfast for the women. And we washed the dishes as well!!! We tried to warn the single men at a nearby camp what could happen should they get married. Not sure if they took our warning seriously though. But we tried!
It was agreed by all, that since it was a long weekend, the Indaba could be postponed until later in the day. And since we all had late breakfasts, lunch was quite late as well. So a number of us decided to go for a walk and explore the farm. We found the luxury tents along the banks of the river. Each had sleeping and toilet areas. A separate building held all the kitchen equipment and utensils. So all food preparations took place in a communal kitchen.
Ingrid, Genevieve and Renee decided to cross the river via floating platform. This involved standing on the platform and pulling a rope until you crossed the river. The rest of us preferred to cross the bridge using the suspension bridge.

When the ladies got to the other side of the river, they discovered that getting out of the floating platform and up onto the bank was not as easy as it seemed. The embankment was quite steep and no steps or ladder was available. When Wayne tried to help pull Gen up the bank, he lost his footing and both of them ended up on the floating platform! Wayne sustained a nasty bruise to his ribs in the process. After exploring the other side of the river for a bit we walked back to camp, this time everybody used the suspension bridge!
Indaba took place at about 15h00. Being Heritage Day, also known as Braai Day to most, everybody braaied for lunch. A number of us had started the fires before Indaba. So when Indaba ended, our coals were ready to braai. Everybody had an extra twinkle in their eyes knowing that unlike "normal" weekends, there was no need to pack as we could enjoy an extra night at camp.
After late lunch / early supper, we sat around the fires chatting, until one by one we retired for the evening.

Monday 25th September
We were woken by rain during the early morning. And although it's never pleasant to pack up in the rain, we were happy and grateful for it. Most Trekkers had some breakfast before they packed up. Leon and Charlene were the first to leave. The rest of us packed up whenever there was a bit of break in the rain. Those of us with tents had no option but to pack up the wet tents. One by one the Trekkers departed for home, except for those lucky few, like the Hendriks and Sindens who left for another camp at Riversonderend.
On our way home messages came through that there were major traffic jams on the other side of Sir Lowry Pass. Apparently residents were protesting in the streets. We were diverted through Gordons Bay and back onto the N2. That short trip seem to take forever!

From the Cables, a big thank you to everybody for participating in our very first hosting event - the Chicken Chow Mein cook off. . Your participation and enthusiasm made it a success!

Happy camping and looking forward to the next camp!

Russell & Bronwyn

WE WERE HERE! ☺:

Cable, Carelse, Hendricks, Jurgens, Manuel, Pietersen, Shaw, Sinden, Smith, Vicars Williams

Visitors: Sharon October, Wendy Van Der Heyda, Lauren Manuel

No. of Units:

Caravans	Trailer	Tent	Rooftop Tent	Motorhome
5	1	3	2	1

Apologies: Standing apology received from the Peltons for the remainder of this year.
Arulandu, De Kock, Gilbert, Lawrence, Simons, Scholtz

Trekkertjies: *(all children under the age of 18 or in matric qualify as a Trekkertjie if they sleep in their own tent for the weekend - after 21 outspans they will be awarded a hoodie)*



Surname	Name	Oct
Shaw	Kirstin	12
Taberham	Luke	17
Manuel	Charlene	21
Sinden	Margaret	27
Williams	Lionel	28
Williams	Jody	28

Congratulations on your birthday!

Marty (is awarded at each outspan to the person who does "good deeds")

Marty was with Carla but given to Leighton to award on her behalf. Leighton awarded Marty to Russell and Bronwyn for hosting such an enjoyable evening, Russell got Marty (male's prerogative!)

General:

1. **Die Watergat**: Booking has been made for the weekend of the 10th August 2018.

2. **Guano Caves** – Deposit has been paid for our June 2018 camp.

3. The National Exco have indicated that they will not be willing to stand for re-election. Nominations have been called for. Leon informed all that he will be endorsing Benjamin Pietersen for National President. Good luck Benny!

4. General communication for orders and camp confirmations and non-attendance needs to be sent to Bronwyn by due date - decision has been taken that if **no response received by due date will be taken as no attendance or no order**.
   Should you then decide to attend after the deadline, ***you will need to make arrangements directly with the camp to be visited.***

5. Payments made into the nominated banking account must have your SURNAME_CAMP/TSHIRTS/MEM FEES This makes it easier for Lesley to identify the various payments especially when multiple deposits have been requested.

6. NAGM 2018 - It was decided that the NAGM would be held at Mountain Breeze on weekend of 28th – 30th September 2018. Anybody who knows of any sponsors for gifts/events/games etc, please advise Benny.

7. Combined outspan – Laager 5 wanted Montagu Springs but haven't reverted yet re availability. Suggested venues are Swellendam Municipal Park, Kombati and Bontebok. Venue still to be decided and availability checked.

8. Query w.r.t Bookings – if you pay a booking and then become ill, do you forfeit your deposit or amount paid? Most camps state on their invoice that no refunds will be given. Members should furnish copy of doctor's/death certificate and we can then take it up with the camp based on the NCA.

9. Query w.r.t Wood for the weekend – R20 extra per couple per weekend is to be used for the geselsvuur only. You braai at your own expense – use your own wood.

10. For those families attending Nationals, safe travels and come back with positive feedback. Protect our flag!

Thanks

Bronwyn and Russell for hosting such an enjoyable and interactive event

Upcoming Outspans:

Mountain Breeze – Weekend of the 27th – 29th October, Your hosts for this outspan will be the Carelses.
Cost for the weekend is R440 per family, please pay Lesley on arrival else remember SURNAME_M/BREEZE if paying via EFT. Also bear in mind there's a refundable R200 cost for the gate tag

Vloedbos is supposed to be 17th to 19th November 2017. Consensus is it's too far for a normal weekend and will cost R720 per family for the camp. After voting by members, it has been decided to go to Ouskip for November. Cherie to check availability and advise.

Miller's Camp in Dec 2017 – Booed for Christmas lunch at Black Marlin

January 2018 proposed camp at Tweedetol – booking couldn't be secured as deposit needed to be paid within 48 hours, costs R340p.p.p.n plus full booking cost due in 14 days. Options proposed by members – 22 Watervalle (Porterville) or Greyton EcoPark (previously Silky Oaks)

Charity



List comprises of toiletries for both males and females:

Deodorant, soap, roll on, body lotion, powder, tissues

Bronwyn will remind everybody of the next item that is needed before the next outspan.

Tips for Members:

Ingrid: Advised that you must make sure that your razor blade is correctly covered before putting it away in your toiletry bag.

Wayne : Advised don't help your wife over steep ledges or inclines

Lionel Normal gas tank – make sure that the rubber gasket/seal is still attached to prevent gas escaping

Did you know?

Renee & Merlin Smith achieved their 15th Outspan milestone! Congratulations!

Next achievements due are: Robbie & Karen Liederman for 15 outspans
Roland & Penny Carelse for 50 outspans
Benny & Desiree Pietersen for 75 outspans

Fines

Finesmaster:– was **Derick**,

Destination.

Oewerzicht caravan park.

24/09/2017

Trekkers caravan club.



Wayne roaring around the camp site in his ford husler on Friday afternoon in search of the ultimate campsite and expecting us to relocate the trees in an attempt to preserve the paint on his vehicle. Fine for you.

Friday night and heres our Chef exstrodinare Gavin performing amazing xfactor worthy death defying culinary feats without a safety net, nogal, causing a flat hamburger patty to levitate and then roll of the braai grid and into the laps of the judges. Fine for you.

Very communicative madam secretary ensuring that every Tom Danie and Sipo was aware of who the finemaster was. Bronwyn - Fine for you.

Friday night and heres our Wayne in pain, tripping the light fantastic and every thing else that needed power with his energy sapping van. Another fine for you.

Don and his mystery tent erection tour. Man the fact that it got erected eventually was more than a mystery it was a wonderwerk. Well that was up untill the wind got up in his absence and we had to repeg it for him.

Lionel being another very disappointed springbok fan (springbok grieving supporters helpline 0800570570570) lionel was so traumatized by their loss he decided to swop his allegiance and to his wifes disgust, is now supporting a new football club, called tampax united. Fine for you.

Benny- While sharing my natural cure for weak senior bladders, got confused and wanted to know whether the cinnamon & honey solution would be able to replace viagra. Fine for you...

And then sounding like a new girl band called the hot toddy queens - we have Margaret Lesley Cherie and Desire P confusing the hell out of everybody with their advice for a good hot toddy to cure Pennys flu symptons. Penny is not in attendance. Fines for you.

Roland and Leon fighting over a space to set up Rolands paella dish for the cables mystery fry it if it doesnt move chow on mine get together progressive supper. Such a commotion that the assistance of our PC had to be called in to intervene and solve. Fines forboth of you.

Talking about Benny being the only representative of the winningteam of our recent potjie pot competition proudly displaying the trophy that I lovingly put together but abusing it by allowing it to blow around like a candle in the wind.

Then we have little spoons for the following members that disobeyed explicit instruction that only chop sticks will be used to eat your fry up.
Wayne and Wendy..... eating with a fork.
Renee.....eating with her hands.
Leighton ..... With a big spoon.
Spoons for all of you.

Big spoon goes to a runner who by missing her turn and losing her way turns a 5km fun run into an 18 km marathon. Cherie Williams.