Chairperson	**David Brown**	**082 7794945**
Vice chair	**Wayne Henstock**	**072 3446193**
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Treasurer	**Angela Brown**	**082 4506674**
Member	**Marieta Pieters**	**082 3422436**

COMBINED NEWSLETTER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

BERG RIVER RESORT

For our first outspan of 2025 we agreed to visit Berg River and stay at site E if available. Site E was available and Alex and Colleen, Alan and Meryl and the Browns were in attendance for the planned weekend 25 to 27 January.

Angela and I arrived last on Friday at about 4pm and found that site 56 had been reserved for us, the same site we had in 2024. The sites in section E are very large, especially site 56 as it is a corner site. It is also well grassed with shade most of the day. We were just in time as the park management were passing by and many people were looking for sites. We were soon set up and the ice machine switched on. As it was very hot the ice machine was struggling and we had to be patient and wait for our first glass of wine.

Alex and Colleen were on site 54 next to us and Alan and Meryl were nicely situated under a tree next to the ablution block. There were many tents crowded onto the sites around us and it felt like there may have been envious glances at all the unused space on our sites.
As darkness arrived the braai fires were lit and we congregated around the Browns van to enjoy catching up with family news and cook supper. Meryl reported that Trevor, Carmen and Keala were planning to visit on Saturday afternoon and stay the night. We were all invited to join them for the Saturday evening braai. Alex has been recovering from surgery and follow up treatment so it was good to see him in good spirits and able to camp again. We have missed Alex and Colleen at our last few camps. Meryl is looking forward to taking her next 2025 Bali tour.
Saturday arrived and was another hot day with intermittent cooling breezes, thank goodness. We tootled off to KWV to secure some bubbles for the weekend. We had to leave home without bubbles as the Makro order was delayed.
We all gathered at Mery and Alan’s van for the evening braai and were entertained by the various activities, laughter and fun being had all around us. The Park was full with not a spare site to be had. The 6 person per site rule was certainly taken advantage of and many children were at play next door. Keala had made friends with some of them. It was all very relaxing
Sunday Indaba was held outside of Alex and Collen’s van which fortunately was in a shady spot. The indaba was brief as all future venues are in the newsletter. The

combined outspan has been arranged to be held at Ou Skip on 12 to 13 April. R110 per person which is a good rate. Sites have been booked so feel free to just pitch up. Our next outspan is at Yzerfontein 21 to 23 February 2025.
With only a few people attending it was decided to hold over the spoon and no fines were issued.
The Browns had decided to leave on Tuesday Morning so we just watched the people packing up and the park was virtually empty by four in the afternoon. I estimated that there was well over 1000 people at Berg River over the week end and the park confirmed that they only had 12 sites left.
Sunday night the wind picked up and Monday the wind raged all day, Not pleasant but that is how it goes. Fortunately the Park watered the roads around our site to that was a help with the dust blowing all around.

YZERFONTEIN

One has to book well in advance to obtain a site at Yzerfontein and the booking office seems to be unable to efficiently handle the process. We initially were expecting to have five sites occupied but for various reasons three couples were unable to make. Leslie has unfortunately been suffering with cellulitis on his lower leg and has been in and out of hospital trying to recuperate. Marieta and Lesley were forced to cancel their booking as a result. We wish Leslie a speedy recovery.
Alex and Colleen were able to make arrangements at the last moment to attend but the park claimed that no sites were available. Despite having sent an email that they were not able to attend the Park was insistent that the Pieters site was booked for them. Johan intervened and ascertained that indeed there was an email on file for the cancellation of site 115. In the end Alex and Colleen missed the weekend as their originally booked Cat sitter was no longer available.
So the Browns joined Johan and Rosemary and set up on the site next to them. I had decided that I would set up facing the road for a change believing that the morning sun would not be as hot. Indeed, it is preferable to the long afternoon sun. We greeted many people passing by on the road. People can't resist looking.
We joined Johan and Rosemary for the evening braai. Rosemary has been recovering from surgery on her hand and has had a long period of recuperation. The hand is almost back to normal. Johan mentioned that they were booked until Friday 28th so no rush to leave for them. Johan's cousin Louis and wife Louna, their daughter Ale and husband Henrico with their two children were also in attendance for the weekend.
On Saturday we visited Darling Brewery as I wanted to get some of their Ginger Bomb. A hops infused, home brewed ginger beer. Always a nice drive to take before it gets too hot. We decided not to visit the Greek Restaurant on the way back so saved our pennies on that one.

We all congregated together for the Saturday Braai and suddenly the long-anticipated fog moved in. Got quite chilly and the longs and jackets were needed. Then just as suddenly we had a lovely clear sky and hardly a breath of wind. Henrico got the fire going and Louis and I made braai fires.
One of the treats at Yzerfontein it to take early morning coffee and take a walk to the viewing spot on top of the dunes. Possibly one of the most interesting views on the West Coast. There is certainly a lovely beach to walk along if so desired.

We decided to skip Indaba and had a relaxing Sunday before slowly packing up for a late midafternoon departure.
For those who are going, see you at Berg River next month. For any last minute decisions we have sites 54 ad 56 booked, six persons per site.

Future Outspans

20th to 23rd March 2025 (Long weekend) – Berg River. Sites 54 and 56 booked

25th to 28th April 2025 (Long weekend) – Stille Waters. This weekend is already booked, and the deposit has been paid.

23rd to 25th May 2025 (AGM) – Ou Skip

Safe towing until next time,

Angela & David