

## **DUBE –( 20th – 22nd October 2023)**

A contented sigh escaped my lips as I lowered myself into the warm water. It was so good to be back at Dube!

Rather than the usual August, this was the first time the club had camped here so late in the year and as a result members made extravagant use of the super tubes, slides, waterway and many pools. The not so brave sticking to the heated pools.



Being the largest rally ever hosted by Northvaal, instead of our usual 30 to 35 motorhomes, the resort had to find place for 54 vans, not to mention the more than thirty members who opted to take advantage of the midweek special from Sunday to Friday before the rally and others the week after. This during one of their busiest periods.

On behalf of the club I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the staff at Dube, as well as our secretary Elmarié, for their incredible patience and care in which they undertook to sort out the situation and make our stay such a pleasurable one.

Sunrise Tuesday morning, saw a group setting off on an organised bird watching hike and for those many bowls enthusiasts, arrangements were made for them to use the facilities at the Brits Bowling club on Tuesday and Thursday.

Wednesday morning a buzz could be heard coming from the hall as campers congregated for a scrumptious tea and bingo provided by the resort. This is one of the few resorts where every year we are able to see major changes made to



improve our camping experience.



I think Jays devotional message on Sunday of the overwhelming extravagant love of God, just affirmed what many felt as they walked, cycled or drove through the park. During the week a Giraffe dropped her young one and some were privileged to see it drinking from its mother with the umbilical cord still attached. The same could be said of the Zebra.

At the Friday night “meet and greet” Karel welcomed new members Eric and Ria Beyl. He also welcomed 11 members from other regions together with their wives. Two from the Western Cape, four from Mpumalanga and eight from the Free State. We are like family and it is so good to meet others from around the country.

Karel also explained the achievement tokens given in recognition of every 25th continual milestone and mentioned that it won't be long and Hansie will have achieved his goal of 400 rallies. Tokens were handed to JP & Rita Geldenhuys as well as Loekie & Fia Snyder for 25 rallies attended while Marius and Maryna received a token and mug for having achieved 75. Sonja also received a mug and token for 100 rallies. Well done.

The Northvaal AGM on Saturday morning saw Karel, Elmarié and Marius once more voted in for another year. The National committee of Willie, Marius and Sonja, also remains the same. Details may be found in the minutes (will be published in the Motorhomer).



Shannon Labuschagne from the Garrun Group gave us an insurance update listing items for which there was previously no cover and which has now been re-negotiated. Once again the subject was brought up



concerning the incorrect tow-in vehicles being dispatched to a motorhome breakdown. We had a perfect example this weekend when John and Eileen needed to be towed back to Pretoria.

Saturday night, people arrived armed with their complementary meat packs donated by Garrun. As the sun ducked beneath the horizon, leaving an orange glow in its wake, people could be seen congregated in front of the hall around the fires and two massive black pots.



All laughing, chatting and sharing stories. With their typical flair Hansie and Sonja had not only organised the fires for our communal braai but also included "pap and sous". This all added to the atmosphere and people were loath to leave but of course there was the rugby!



They were soon back in the hall sporting their green and gold to watch this nail biting performance. The signal here is very weak and with the time delay, the poor people who opted to watch in their vans knew something was about to happen when they heard the shouts and stamping coming from the hall.





The wooden spoon was awarded twice on Sunday. First to Elmarié for going above and beyond in her handling of the bookings for Dube and sorting out a very complicated situation. Not only sorting it out but



also the manner in which she achieved this. And then to Hansie and Sonja in thankful recognition of their willingness and contribution to the club. This award encourages us to think back on the highlights of our stay. I have only touched on a few but for me the comaradri and fellwship is what draws me back every time.

