



# Newsletter

3rd edition 2024

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## From the Driver's seat

The year is on its head, and everyone deserves a well-deserved break.

We have learned to book accommodation from October to ensure you get a camping spot as camping is much more affordable than anything else, and we all must stretch our hard-earned money (especially pet friendly ones).

So, we hope you are excited to spend the holidays and festive season with your loved ones somewhere, while camping and enjoying nature.

Some people like to just stay at home and that is also great - we are so fortunate that Cape Town has so much to offer, and you can visit various places every day.

2024 will bring exciting new things, unfamiliar places to go camping. We will revisit the ones we have enjoyed and want to visit again (Klipkrans, Honingklip, Gecko Rock, Klein Tafel Berg etc).

We encourage you to let us know which places you would like to visit and what you would like to do, on day outings and camping week ends, especially the members with young children.

We also would like to see members leading outings please (with the support of the committee members!), we would love you to step up and volunteer.

So, whatever you do, wherever you go be safe, have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

We have our outings planned for the new year, let us know if you are joining us and don't wait until it's too late, as we see an encouraging uptake and at times there is limited space available.

Happy Camping!

***Connie Hillebrand, Chairman***

## **From the Vice's seat**

As I was told a while ago, when the Atlantis Fun Day comes and goes, you feel the end of the year closing in very quickly! The AFD was a huge success and feedback received was positive and inspiring for the next event. At the time of writing, the postmortem on the event still needs to take place which is very important to lay the foundation for 2025 or number 18!! Have a look at the AFD 2024 results on our website. It might inspire you when looking for a new 4x4.

Earlier this year we had the amazing Mid-Year Bash at Donkieskraal. The weekend still stands out as a super event with good memories except for the wet and sometimes windy conditions. It was still winter!! The dinner on the Saturday evening at a lang tafel in a cave, organised and decorated with lots of attention to detail and help, will be remembered for the meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to Lelanie and Josie and all who helped to make it a memorable occasion. A bit of sand and rock driving made it complete.

Trips to Outreepad and Zevenwacht were also well attended and enjoyed by the members and guests present. The GPS run, well organised by Fred, drew even more participants than the previous year and it was ended off with a welcome lunch stop at Toeka Stoor.

For three weeks Carin and I toured Namibia and went as far as the Kunene mouth. At this stage I am still busy with the editing of photos. I am preparing to provide feedback just to inspire fellow members.

Now we are really looking forward to the Year End Function at Guano Caves near Montagu. It is expected to be a very special weekend away with more feedback to follow in the next newsletter.

***4x4 Regards, Henri du Toit, Vice-Chairman***

## Donkieskraal – Mid-Year Bash 8-11 August 2024

We arrived with soft rain coming down and a bit of cold weather, but this did not dampen our spirits.



The accommodation was beautiful built into the rocks (unfortunately we had some bad luck with the rain and the water seeping out of the rocks).



*On Thursday night we had our communal braai in the lapa area with a great big fire keeping us warm.*

On Friday more members joined, and we had a lazy day at the camp and drove to some of the caves around the farm. It's truly a beautiful area.

Again, we had a wonderful braai under the stars as the weather cleared up for the evening.

On Saturday, we did some more exploring on the farm and returned for a coffee and to make preparations for the evening's dinner.



Due to the unforeseen fact that we did not have electricity we did everything on gas, fire and the outside oven. I would like to give a big shout out again to each person who made the dinner such a success. We had a lovely evening in the “cave lapa” ending off with chocolate shot glasses filled with Amarula!



We also had Connie and Elsje visiting and decided that the Women's Day chocolate is rather tasty!

A big thank you from me and Lelanie to everyone who made the weekend one to remember!!

*Jose/Lelanie*

## GPS leisure drive – August 2024

In the midst of a miserable cold and wet winter, Sunday the 25th August dawned relatively bright and sunny. Fred had organised another of his GPS driving exercises, again around the Paardenberg mountains between Malmesbury and Paarl. Seven vehicles and 10 members came to a rendezvous point on the R45 and we received our routing instructions.



*Ann and Fred check out the details while Henri looks elsewhere (!)*

The basic idea is that the participants are given (a few days ahead of time) a list of GPS coordinates with minimal additional information: a sequence number, an encoded reference, and a cryptic hint with words indicating where a point might be - but the single word “gravel” occurred many times in that list! Here is one example:

8	G 4A	Road and [Gravel]	S33.66717 E18.86593
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Then, on the day, participants are given a routing that is unique to them and which tells them the sequence in which they must visit the waypoints and what they must do when they get there. Fred builds in a simple instruction to send a WhatsApp message at certain places, so that the individual participant speeds can be measured against a target. There are no winners and no losers and the principal challenge is not to get lost and to stay on the road.

The conditions were mildly challenging. Much of the routing is on farm roads (but always public, not private roads) and the weather had not been kind over the previous weeks and months. Clearly a lot of maintenance work has been done in the short term but there were some very deep puddles and one or two bridges which had been washed out at the sides and had to be traversed with some care. Just enough to make it a legitimate 4 x 4 day!



*Looking north to the Kasteelberg:  
Wet roads, full dams, canola ripening in the fields, and an uncertain sky.*

Many thanks to Fred for organising another very enjoyable GPS-guided leisure drive!

***Andy Bytheway***

## Outreepad day outing 14 September 2024

On a bright sunny Saturday morning seven vehicles (six members and one guest) gathered at the lapa of Outreepad. We deflated to about 1.6 bar and with Fred in the lead we started to explore the tracks on the farm. Routes are no longer marked, and you may drive all over on 4x4 routes and obstacles.



At one point we came to a dead end and decided to follow our own route and cross the river where the water was about tyre deep. Most of us wanted to avoid the salty water! After a tour of the perimeter of the farm we got back to some 4x4 obstacles. This was enjoyed by most of the attendees and Fred and I concurred that we should plan a Club points event there.



At the end of the day, we all had something to eat and drink at the lapa. It was super to meet up with members and meet people who enjoyed being out and about. After inflating tyres, we all headed off in different directions.

**Henri**



## Buffelsrivier outing feedback, 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September.



The long weekend away forced members to use all their camping gadgets (solar shower, solar panels, rechargeable lights etc) as it was wild camping at its best. That is not everyone's cup of tea as you must be totally self-sufficient.

Camping with an offroad caravan in the veld makes you realise how comfortable they are and worth every cent as they really make our lives so much easier.

We had to have our own sources of electricity (solar panels) as there is no electricity to keep your fridges, lights etc. going.

We also had to bring enough water for all our daily needs which included being able to have a nice hot shower.

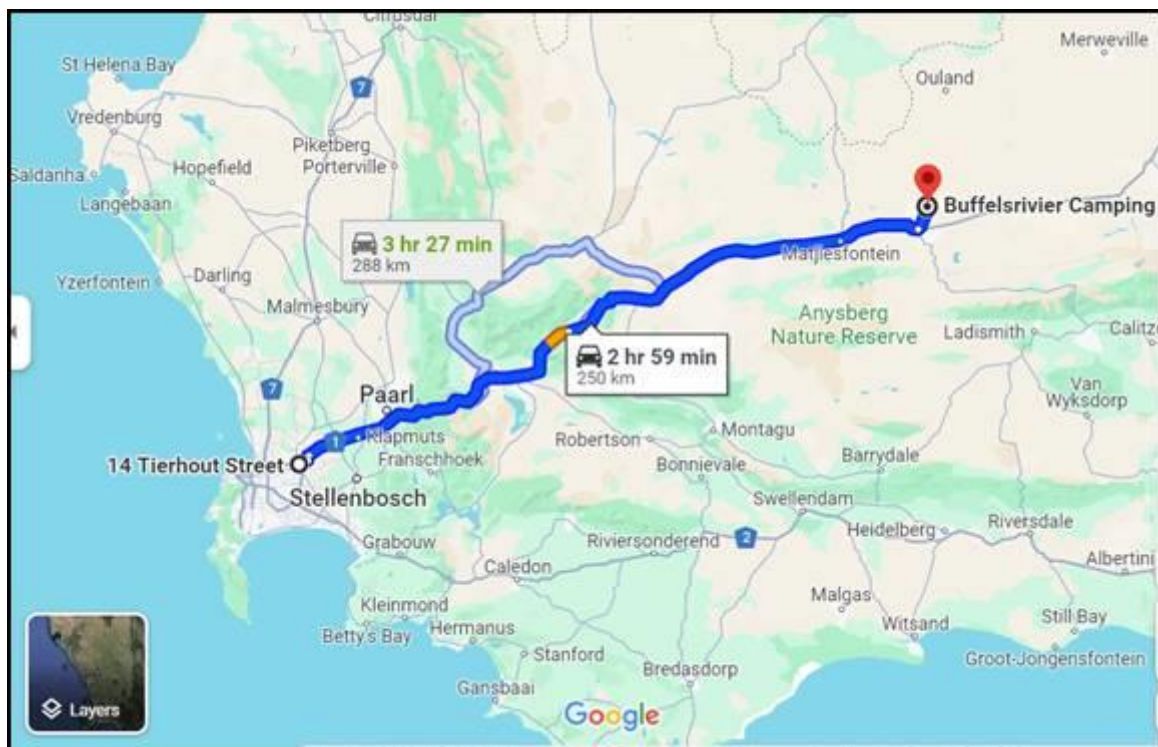
There was absolutely nothing as we camped in a dry riverbed.

Five vehicles took part: Connie & Elsje Hillebrand (outing leaders) Jose & Lelanie Galhardo, Karen & Sam Miller and Marius and Tertius (Marius' friend from Tshwane).

Buffelsrivier is also a pet friendly camp which we loved as it is not always possible to take our pets with and I must say looking at the photos Lolla and Chico enjoyed the camp as much as we did.



Buffelsrivier is situated +- 250km from Cape Town. We met up in Worcester on the Saturday morning, while Karen & Sam joined us at Laingsburg as they came all the way from Wilderness.



We deflated tyres on the gravel road to the farm where we met up with the very friendly farm owner, Izak who gave us some pointers to the camp and the set-up.

Ten spots were marked for camping and as it was a long weekend of wild camping, you could camp anywhere on the 8000 hectares. Izak did not want campers to be too close to each other so that they were able to experience wild camping as it should be.

We took the track towards the camp, crossing and recrossing the shallow river all the time. We will not mention who got bogged down in the riverbed, but with everyone's help we first recovered the vehicle and then the caravan as it was just too heavy to recover both together. All part of the fun to upskill ourselves in vehicle recovery!



*We set up camp in the most amazing spot. How fortunate, we were able to camp in the wild and enjoy the things we love with likeminded people.*





*(I wonder what Sam was thinking at this moment)*



*Every evening, we braaied together and shared many interesting stories of our lives while getting to know each other better.*

On Saturday we took on the 27 km trail. At first it was a two-spoor track through the mountains. Eventually we came to a point where we entered the river and started following a very special trail, as the river wound through the farm making its way towards our camp with some amazing scenery.



*The whole time we were in and out of the river, thick sand, rocks, water, just unbelievably fantastic as you do not get this offering anywhere else.*



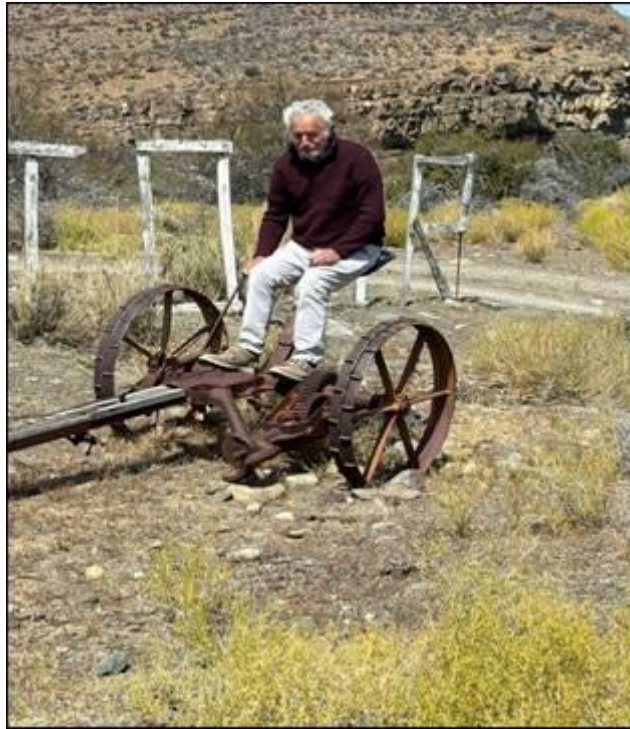
*We met a guided quad bike group which is an option to do on the farm, and it looked like a lot of fun.*



*We stopped somewhere on the trail next to a rock bank and had brunch there while taking in the beauty of the environment.*



*We slowly made our way back to the camp and stopped at "Die Klipstoor" to find out what it was all about.*



*Sam got carried away to a very long time ago.*



One of our members had an unfortunate event with his vehicle which needed to be recovered as the differential packed up. The vehicle had to be loaded on a trailer to be taken back to Cape Town on the Monday while the rest of us stayed another day.

On the Saturday evening, we made burgers and crispy chips on the fire, a real hit for everyone

On Monday the car was collected, and plans were made to get the stranded off-road trailer back to CT. Luckily, we had Marius not towing anything and he volunteered to tow it all the way (much appreciated Marius for your service).

The rest of the day we spent at leisure and had another communal braai on our last evening.



*Marius and Tertius enjoying the swallow river cooling off their feet while admiring our surroundings.  
As you can see the water was crystal clear and we could use it for washing our dishes*

On Tuesday 24th, we packed up early as we don't like doing it when it gets too hot.

We left early as we had a long way back home and we expected the road to be very busy with kilometres of roadworks.



*These farm chickens were huge, we had not seen anything like them before.*



I certainly rank this camp as one of my top 5 camps we have ever visited as we had lots of scenery. We enjoyed the remoteness, the quietness and the people who joined this trip and the fact that we did wild camping, just placed this camp site experience up there.

We have decided that we will make it a yearly trip in September over the long weekend as it is not too hot and not that cold at that time of the year.

Thank you to everyone who made this trip a memorable one, for the books.

Best Regards

***Connie***

Atlantis 4x4 Fun Day – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024



**TOYOTA**  
LEAD THE WAY

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024**  
**4X4 FUN**  
**ATLANTIS**

**4**  
WHEEL DRIVE CLUB  
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
WESTERN CAPE

**SPECTATORS:**  
ON FOOT: FREE  
SPECTATOR VEHICLES: R150  
REFRESHMENTS & FOOD AVAILABLE

**PARTICIPANTS:**  
DRIVER, CO-DRIVER & VEHICLE: R700  
**LOTS OF PRIZES!**  
TO REGISTER GO TO:  
[WWW.4WD-WC.CO.ZA](http://WWW.4WD-WC.CO.ZA)  
EMAIL: [events@wd-wc.co.za](mailto:events@wd-wc.co.za)

NO QUADS/BIKES ADMITTED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
082 654 1116

**TEST YOUR SKILLS ON THE DUNES IN A SERIES OF OBSTACLES**



The 17<sup>th</sup> Atlantis dunes fun day took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. This all was made possible by the Atlantis planning committee who had their first meeting in June already this year.

The following people were part of this steering committee, who dedicated lots of their own time and effort; these individuals and our helpers delivered an incident-free event:

Charl Kruger, Jolietta Kruger, Johan Marias, Fred Bartens, Schuts Maria, Jimmy Newman, Henri Du Toit, JP Otto, Phillip Coetzee, Rob Nel and myself.

In the first week in September, the noggin was at the clubhouse where we all got together, to sort out all the equipment to be used for the event and ensure everything was neatly pack and organised. Johan put a list together of what to take, ensuring nothing would be left behind.

Three weeks prior to the event, we went to look at where we would be able to set up base camp as we needed a flat surface for the tent and parking area. We marked 8 different obstacles on the GPS, knowing that the lie of the land might change as the wind does effect that.

Each obstacle got a name, and the task needed to be completed by the teams taking part. Fred converted this into a booklet for each team to be scored on.

We had a meeting on the Wednesday at which Schuts informed all the helpers of their tasks for the two days, with detailed instructions shared as needed. On the Friday prior to the event, some of our member-helpers met at the clubhouse to load our equipment to take to the dunes, while the rest met at the dunes. It took a lot of effort to build these obstacles; we also had to tow the toilet trailers to the base camp, as well as the food and coffee trailers.



*We battled with the tent trailer as we needed to put 3 vehicles in tandem to get it through the dunes - all part of the fun*





*Our members and helpers in action, it took a huge team effort to build all the obstacles*





It was extremely hot on the day, but in the late afternoon some members could sit back and enjoy the sunset while staying over in the dunes, with some members heading home to return early the next day.

On the day of event some of us had to get up at 4AM to be at the dunes 6AM with a long hectic day awaiting us. The contenders arrived early, names were ticked off on the list, vehicles marked, and after deflating tyres they drove full of excitement to the holding area, before going to the parking area at the tent.



Here they were parked in groups, awaiting Johan's driver briefing at 9h00. They all received goodie bags made up by Jolietta. These were sponsored by various sponsors, and we must admit this was a great gift with a value of +- R700!

Eight groups were guided to every obstacle by our club members, and they had to ensure each of the eight obstacles were visited on a rotational base. The obstacles were also all sponsored by various sponsors.

The event officially started 9h30 with teams going in all directions to test their skills at the different challenges. At the end of the day, it was a combination of skills and vehicle capability that made the difference. What make this event so great is that it is a family event, and some cars were filled with exactly that: mom and dad with kids, or just a group of friends in the vehicle, or just a team consisting of a driver and co-driver.





*The speed sections are always the favourite ones,  
who does not like to drive fast in a controlled environment?*







*Team Toyota start their challenge*



*Age is just number and these to old gentleman still had it in them*

Some cars wheels came off the rim as the tyres were deflated to low and while taking sharp turns - the wheels that were already hot and at a low pressure lost all pressure. The rule was that contestants had to recover themselves. Our recovery team (led by Johan Tyers) only assisted the Toyota teams.

On many occasions Johan and Charl had to be called to restore the tracks where vehicles damaged it and to make it fair it was then driven so that the tracks recover to normal two spoor ones.

Leon collected the scorecards while Daren, Elsje and Karen then help to sort them to be captured to determine a winner after all teams completed all the eight obstacles.



*We also had static displays, all offroad related*



*Riaan from Toyota our main sponsor said a few words*

All the participants waited patiently for the results while admiring the prizes that were to be handed out. See the photo of the winners and people selecting the lucky draws.





*Overall winner Darran & Isabel Finn in a Jeep*

While the crowd gathered at the tent and watched the prize giving, the team had to break up the obstacles and ensure that we left only our tracks behind, and no litter, in this beautiful conservation area. We were closely monitored all the time, and after everything was removed we got a clean bill from the park Rangers.

The food and beverage trailers saved the day, selling loads of foods and drinks and providing all the helpers with breakfast and lunch, as they really needed (and deserved!) a good meal and drinks to keep them going. These helpers included ten members of the local committee, which real lightened the burden and cost of the jobs to be done every day while receiving some well-needed money for the day, making a difference in their lives.

Numerous compliments were received about the professional way we delivered the event, including through YouTube videos and other media platforms. As previously, Waldo, Hannes and team from Ignition TV captured action moments and conducted interviews that will be showed on TV, we will let all our members know when that will air.

A big thank you to everyone who has made this another successful event.

Until next year!

**Connie**