



Alfred County Herald

January 2025

alfredcountycc@gmail.com



Chairman's Chatter.

2025 started with the week long excursion to TO Strand. An opportunity to connect with caravan friends after a holiday recess.

It is exciting to have experienced again the camaraderie amongst members camping there.

Alfred County and I congratulates the Bookers with the marriage of their grandchild Aura. We sincerely pray that this event will continue to provide many pleasurable memories.

In this newsletter, feedback will be given on the TO Strand rally and the von Backström's visit to Namibia. Pictures of some campsites visited in the Namib will be posted.

You are invited to our next rally at Natalia from 14 to 20 February 2025

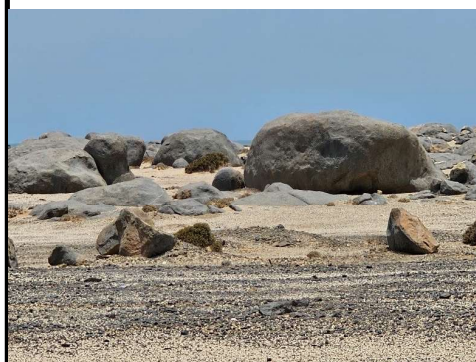
Humbly submitted

Johan von Backström
Chairman

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The beauty of the Namib



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Report on the TO Strand Adventure.

After a long trip of ± 8000kms to Namibia and back, the weeklong relaxation stint at TO Strand was delightfully welcome.

When arriving at TO Strand on the 20th January, the Bookers, Ellisons and Foxcrofts have already had their vans parked and tents up. As per custom, the Foxcrofts used/ booked “their” site close to the river. Their aim is to look at the abundant birdlife at the bank of the river. Every time they were close to where we have setup camp, a very comprehensive report was given on the bird life being seen.

The first day, when arriving there was hot and humid, sweat dripping from our forehead and the perspiration from our bodies soaked our clothes. However, willing hand made setting up camp so much easier.

Late on the first day it started raining and this continued for the next two days. NO BRAAI OPPORTUNITIES. This allowed us to have extended time for reading “thick” books, just to go and sit and “kuier” at our vans, chitting and chatting about politics (not very enlightened or interesting), what we did during December 24, and whatever crossed our minds. At last, the rain weather cleared up and sunny weather greeted us.

On Thursday, Glen and Marius arrived and setting up camp next to the Bookers. They also invited friends (Victor and Carol) they met at one of their stints at Paradise Resort. Victor and Carol bought a caravan from Natal caravans and with the transaction, received vouchers of Caravan Resorts to go and use the caravan. Alfred County went out of its way to involve them and not only marketing Alfred County, but also the CCSA.

On Friday, the remainder of members indicating that they will attend arrive, Bill and Sheila Pellew. They were heartily welcomed.

In total, six caravans from Alfred County plus one from friends attended the rally. Friday evening the caravanners attended a hamburger event managed by the von Backströms. The patties were prepared using our own mix of spices. When the evening ascended on us, Johan setup the LED light with disastrous consequences—it attracted any kind of flying insects. Apologies to all whom sitting close to this light. However, it seems that all enjoyed the hamburgers provided.

On Saturday afternoon, we had a chance to play “Ladders”, a game developed by Siegy Hannelt, a dear friend of Alfred County. I think he was enjoying from above, the way in which this game was enjoyed. The winner of this game was Sheila Pellew. Well done Sheila, you taught us how to aim and then throw. After this game, the men decided to informally play Boule.



Saturday evening we had our, as usual, “The Famous County Braai”. The Bookers was absent as they attended the marriage ceremony of their grand child, a very important event in the life of every family. They were told that proper feedback needs to be given on this event. This they did and we can see that it indeed was a very special event.

Sunday we closed our first rally for 2025 with the as usual and always exciting friendlies. Thanks to Ann Foxcroft with a very applicable message from the Bible. The fines master was Bill Pellew. He kept us laughing for all the fun things we did unknowingly. Even the visitors were not spared from his very candid observations. Thanks Bill for an excellent job done.

The next rally will be at Natalia from 14 to 20 February ‘25. More information to follow on the last page.

The Namibian adventure.

Every two years the von Backström's go to Namibia for a month long visit with their daughter who is living in Windhoek. Because of the distance, the trip to Windhoek is done over a period of three days.

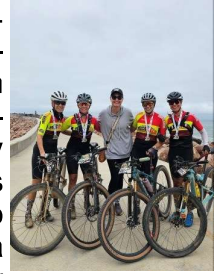
It always is a challenge to cross border anywhere you go, though there is always some humour. The border post we normally cross from South Africa is at Nakop. This border post is also in a very arid area and the photo explains just this.





Kimberley, which is 921km's from Margate was our sleepover. From there we proceeded to Namibia via Upington to Nakop and then Ariamsvlei, a distance of 551km's and which is the border post to Namibia. We slept there on a farm where Breggie's cousin is farming. We were treated with a very traditional "staanrib" that was very tasty. The dry heat outside forces one to mainly sit outside to "kuier". The third day's travelling to Windhoek that was 834km's. There we stayed for 3 days before traveling to Swakopmund which is 361km's.

In Windhoek, a lot of preparations were to be made for the Desert Dash. This is a 24 hour race from Windhoek to Swakopmund, starting 15h00 on the said Friday and finish the following day at 15h00 in Swakopmund. Team meetings were held, mountain bikes get serviced, race apparel from sponsors are handed out, registration and debriefing for the race need to be attended to. My daughters team were sponsored by Pupskewitz Megatech, a major builder and hardware company in Namibia. Entrants



to the race can decide whether they want to do a solo race (401km's in the saddle), or a two person or four person team (where they need to plan who will be riding which stages—each team however needs to start together and finish together). The last stage to Swakopmund is from Goanikontes, an oasis in the desert. This is the last stage and all team members go from there, together. The pictures to the left shows team

members waiting to depart to Swakopmund.

The race end in Swakopmund at a mall called Platz Ameer. This is a mall next to the sea. At the finishing line, there is an announcer who announces all the arrivals. Those who's performance was such that they qualify for podium, are interviewed by reporters from news papers and national media. There is also a prize giving ceremony to those who qualified for such.

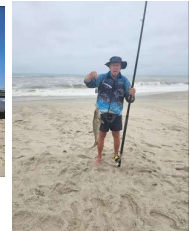


After the Dash, we remained in Swakop for another 3 days. We made use of the opportunity to go to Walvisbaai and Wlodzkasbaken. Walvisbaai is known for Dune 7, an in - and - export harbour and fishing industries. Wlodzkasbaken is known for a small town, 22 miles north of Swakopmund, where there is no fences around properties, there is no electricity provided by the municipality and no water is provided by pipeline. Electricity is obtained by solar or battery systems or just paraffin lamps. Water is delivered to houses by means of a truck having to pump the water into water tanks at home.



The architecture in Swakopmund is mainly of German origin. The place, Jetty's Self Catering, we resided in, is a typical example of this.

The national sport during December and January months in Namibia is fishing. One has the opportunity to drive next to the sea, looking for good fishing spots. Fishing becomes good when you start having success. Catching no fish is also good because one has more time to relax. The Namib coastline is not as well developed as here in Natal or Cape Province. There are no small towns along the coast as in South Africa. Most camping sites do not have electricity points and water. Ablutions are in many cases a "long drop". At some caravan parks the ablution is a shower and toilet and water is heated by means of a "donkey".

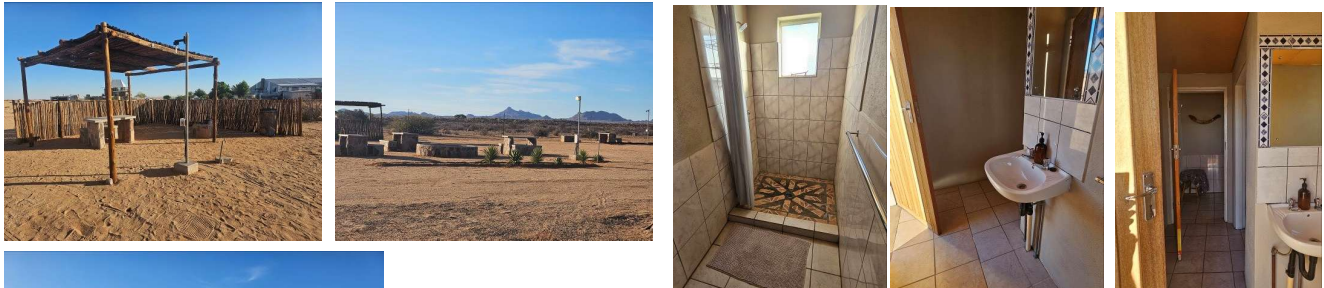


- 4 On our way back to South Africa, we spent 4 days in the Kalahari. The farming community we have family in, is close to Aranos. Currently this area suffers from a severe draught. The Kameeldoring and Swarthaak trees has green leaves but there is NO grass for the animals to eat. The following pictures will show how bad it looks.



As all holidays comes to an end, we had to return home. On the way back we slept on a farm/ resort called Namgate. This place is 5km from a small town called Grunau, on the Noordoewer road (Namibian border post on route to Cape town).

Apart from having nice rooms to stay in, it also has some excellent caravan sites. All the sites have electricity, a water connection, their own braai and relaxing area. Because the plant geography is not known as having many trees, the developers compensated by erecting shades areas where one can sit and relax. The ablutions are immaculately clean.

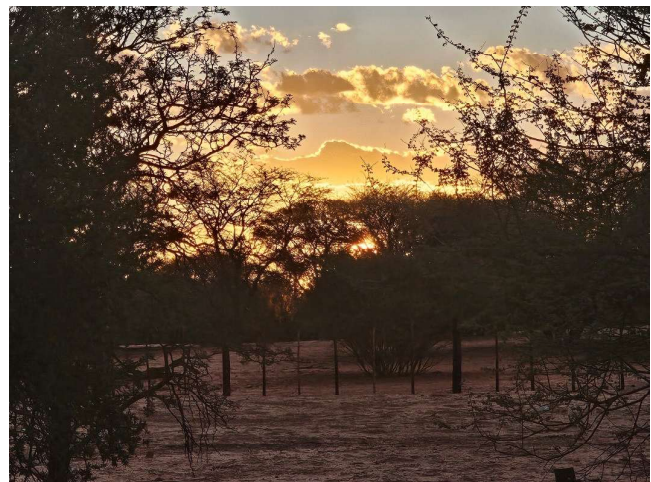
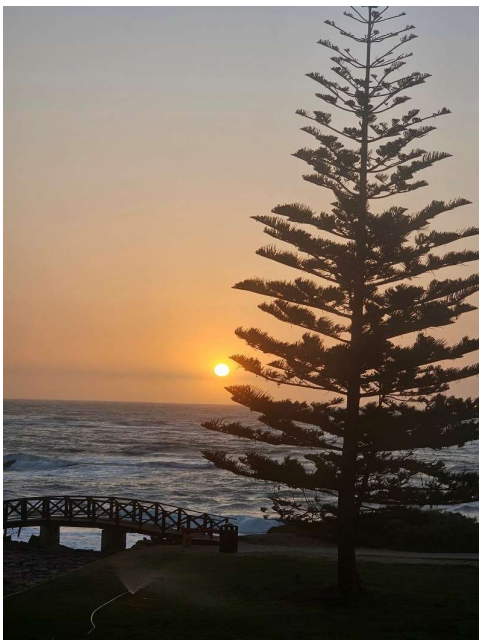


The cost for using the caravan sites and sleeping there is \$150 per person per night. The Namibian dollar is equivalent to the South African Rand.

Should you wish to go to Namibia, towing your caravan or not, I will strongly suggest you can pop in there and enjoy excellent customer service.

(Ed. Note: I have had permission to take photographs and write about the resort by management).

One thing about Namibia is its spectacular and amazing sunsets. This is the time of day where you can just relax and reflect on all the wonderful experiences you have had.



Banking Details:**Caravan Club of S A - Alfred County**

FNB Marine Drive Shelly Beach

Branch Code : 250062**Account No. : 63003321287****Use your surname as reference.****NB. If paying EFT R20.00 Rally fees + park fees.****BIRTHDAYS**

2	Feb	Huibrecht von Backström
6	Feb	Norma Boyd
12	Feb	Margaret Hanelt
14	Feb	Andrew Foxcroft
25	Feb	Heather Walker

ANNIVERSARIES*No Anniversaries to report***IN OUR THOUGHTS**

Louis Manté

Rose Walker

Rosemary Haage

Huibrecht von Backström

Caravanning with County is
LEKKA

FROM THE PEN OF THE CHIEF RALLY MARSHAL

Greetings County, welcome to a new caravanning year, which I trust will be the best yet.

Our last rally was to T.O. STRAND with most members taking the week special. As usual we had a very pleasant time. There was a total of seven vans including the visitors.

The next rally will be at Natalia on 14 to 16 February '25. For those wanting to stay longer, they can extend their stay to 20 February. If you did not have a week long stay this year, come and join us. The rate is R165.00 for two people per night, plus rally fee R20.00. Please advise Glenda by the 9th of your intentions and payment into the bank account. Fortunately and also excitingly, we have marshals for this rally and a full programme is on the cards. The Friday evening food offering is HOTDOGS at R30.00 each, please include your requirement with your intention.

We are in the pleasant and also thankful position of having marshals for the future two rallies, this does not mean you may sit back, we still need marshals for MAY, AUGUST and SEPTEMBER. So put on your big boy pants and book your Rally as well as indicating whether you want to marshal and by when.

Several members will be departing from Natalia to take part in the DCCA rally to Marakele, safe travels to all. We are looking for a report on their tour.

There are more reasons to attend than not attending.

What are your reasons???

*Come and join us for a fun
filled week, full of joy and
relaxation!!!*

Scribe: For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Declaration: I hereby declare that all material in this newsletter has NOT been copied from any website and contains the original pictures either taken or supplied by members. These are posted with their respective approval.