



41 Club New Zealand Expedition Into Africa 2018

In Conjunction with Apex 40 Australia,
Club 41 New Caledonia and 41 Club G.B. & I.

On 31st August 11 Kiwi's, 11 Aussies (though one of them was on a NZ passport and another a German), 6 From New Caledonia and 2 from U.K. flew to South Africa.

Kiwi's went via Singapore and arrived in Johannesburg at 6:35am on the 1st August. **Day 1:** We were met by the rest of the group and our brilliant Tour Leader Nico McNamara who was already leading a YAP Tour around the country. Needless to say Nico had to get some local help but he was with us for most of our 21 day Tour. Johannesburg is a huge, sprawling, dusty, dirty, dry city with such diversity, shanty towns, modern industrial and business areas,



people selling goods, dancing, singing in the middle of the traffic, spikes, razor wire, and electric fences around everything.

Went to Soweto that afternoon, so crowded but interesting, saw Mandela and Tutu Homes, tiny but well looked after. Visited the Catholic Church Regina Mundi with great stained glass windows. 2 nights at Indaba Hotel, lovely place with

thatched roofs, great food, drink, and friendly staff.

Day 2: Went on interesting trip to Cradle of Humankind and Sterkfontein Caves to see some of the earliest traces of human remains. Evening trip to Monte Casino.

Day 3: Our 2 hour introduction to the old days with a visit to the Apartheid Museum, soul wrenching, leaving us all feeling very disheartened and sombre. Left for Harrismith, drove through the more rundown centre of Joburg, lots of empty buildings, no maintenance, graffiti and rubbish before getting out into the countryside.

Extensive grazing and maize growing; Dry land just waiting for rain. Harrismith; our first meeting with 41er's and home hosted for 2 nights, amazing hospitality, first night at Moth Club with Pooti meal, springbok stew done in a big cauldron, Yum. Stayed with Simon in his Lodge amongst his hunting trophies on his Dairy farm.



Day 4: Trip to Clarens via Golden Gate National Park, past vast lake that sends water to Joburg, through Gorge and escarpment country that's very similar to outback Australia but with game animals, Springbok, Impala, other antelope, Zebra,



Ostrich and even Baboons. Lunch, gin and beer tastings in Clarens then on way back we visited a farm owned by a 41er who was breeding disease

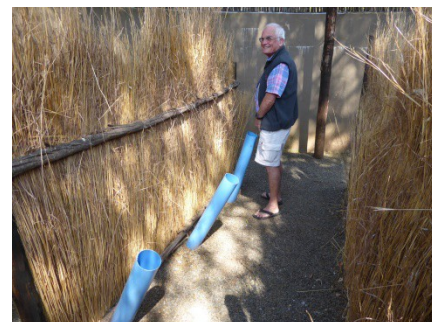


free Buffalo, rare Sable and Rowan Antelope and were taken for close up look at these. . Great day and amazing scenery, beer was good too! Our first time at a Round Table Clubhouse tonight with a Braai (barbeque) meal and fantastic hospitality by the local 41er's. These guys really know how to cook and enjoy themselves.

Day 5: Onwards over hills into Natal to Dundee through well farmed irrigated cropping and grazing country and unkempt Tribal lands, such a contrast in stock



and useage. Had lunch at Bingelela Restaurant, cheap great food, drinks and rather interesting urinals for the gents!! We were hosted for 2



nights on a dairy farm with Dave and Sue Durham in their enormous house, with their huge family business Milk Factory right behind. A wonderful party that night with the local 41er's, wine.

By this stage our bus to play up and the their best to fix it



Braai meal and lots of red air conditioning was starting milk factory mechanics did overnight.

Day 6: Day trip



visiting the Anglo Boer and Zulu Boer Battlefields, amazing guide came with us, so knowledgeable and gave us a great insight to the history. Very hot and windy day. The white cairns mark British graves in photo, they were surprised and surrounded.



A great evening in the Dundee Round Table Clubhouse where we all had to cook our own Pooti meal in mini pots, lots of fun and laughter.



Day 7: A visit to a game hide tannery and a bit of retail therapy then on the road to Richards Bay on a damp drizzly day. Hilly country with sugar cane, eucalyptus plantations and other crops then out towards coast

and into heavy industrial area before arriving at the venue, Imvubu Lodge for the 41er's Association of Southern Africa AGM. Was the Meet and Greet night and also the Theme night "Out of Africa" which we Kiwi's changed to "Into Africa". Lots of nibbles including roast crocodile tail which was delicious, bit like fatty chicken, lovely meal and plenty of chatting, great fun to at last be meeting people I had been emailing for many years, including Bruce McKay and Ulrich Suppan, International President.

Day 8: AGM started at 8:30am and went on till 1:00pm, very long winded for such a small assn. 319 members invoiced and only 123 paid up, amazing for such a huge country. Of course we were fined by



the medicine and staff wielding Sherriff. I spoke of the connection between

South Africa and New Zealand and the historical gift of the Patu which I was able to present that evening to our Tour Leader Nico, great and well deserved.



We were invited to the Presidents Cocktail Party and then on to the Gala Dinner and evening. The YAP tour had their final night there and joined in the fun, fellowship and dancing, it was noted that all the rest of our group went off to bed early!!!!

Day 9: Farewell Brunch and fond goodbyes before leaving the park like venue with monkeys and mongoose running all around.

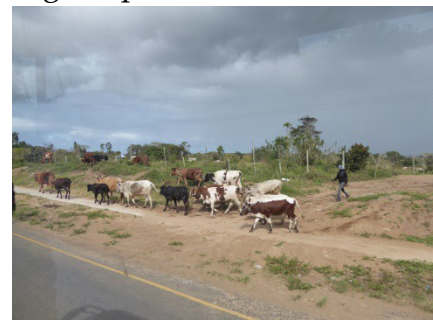
Onwards towards St. Lucia past huge plantations of eucalyptus then through Tribal lands. Stayed at Elephant Lakes Hotel just above the Estuary where Hippo's have been known to drink from the pool.

Day 10: Early morning Wetland Game Drive then



visit to Bird Park, free afternoon then Sundowner Hippo Cruise that evening, saw Croc's, lots of birdlife and of course Hippo's of all sizes.

Day 11: Day Game Drive Mfolozi-Hluhluwe Reserve



Brilliant, but more bush than we expected. Saw



Elephants almost as soon as we arrived, lots of Springbok, Impala, many other Antelope, Zebra, Buffalo, Giraffe, Warthogs, Gnu and Rhino but no big cats. Heaps of birds, so colourful and varied. Braai lunch in Park,



lovely day indeed.

Day 12: Drove down to King Saka Airport and flew to Port Elizabeth, such a contrast, clean, green, no razor wire, wonderful old Beach Hotel overlooking seafront. Pre-dinner drinks with sea view then evening meal in the magnificent dining room.



Day 13: Visited the South End Museum which showed us another side of the history where there had been a



culturally diverse area that was destroyed when apartheid arrived. So sad and unbelievable. Road trip to Knysia, along wide coastal strip, ravines, mountains with even some snow on top, lunch at Storms River, bush walk visit to Big Tree, similar to our bush. Stayed at The Moorings and went to the local Clubhouse for

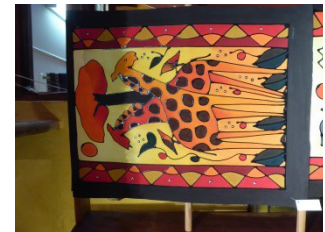


another great evening's hospitality from 41er's. Amazing how Round Table was so strong and built all these Clubhouses with all the banner collections on rafters, NZ ones and from at least one Christchurch Club in every Clubhouse we visited.

Day 14: Morning free, explore Knysia, wonderful vibrant coloured art, retail therapy, in town and then down at wharves before lovely lunch cruise around Lagoon seeing more of the



damage caused by huge fires a year earlier. Drove along coastline, stopping at a beach where we saw colourful snails attacking and eating Bluebottle jellyfish at the water's edge, unreal! Nice scenic trip into George where we went straight to



the Clubhouse and another Pooti meal, yum, plenty of red wine and great hospitality. Home hosted with Jaco (recent very keen 41er) and Karin Hanekom, also keen motor cyclists.



Day 15: After breakfast with the locals at a hotel we drove



over the mountains through rocky pass and down into dryer grazing country with hop and grape growing to Herold Vineyard for tasting and lunch. We all enjoyed very much then back to George



for another fun filled evening at the Clubhouse.

Day 16: Back to the hotel for breakfast and then had to endure the "All Black's" defeat by the "Springbok's" with a very vocal group of South Africans who never thought that they might win. Told them we would send the "A Team" for the rematch and that the Springboks thoroughly deserved the win!!!

Fond farewells then back over the mountains to Oudtshoorn, (very dry, even irrigation run out) to visit Ostrich Farm where some of us were silly enough to ride them, a rather interesting experience!



On to Calitzdorp and lunch at Boplaas Winery with



singing hostess who reminded us of "The Top Twins", a lovely fun place. Some of us stayed at a

Country Guesthouse a lovely gracious place but so homely run by Nellie & Andrew Rogers, all came and had dinner there with us that night, magnificent and a few Ports drunk later on.

Day 17: Sad to leave this lovely spot overlooking the vineyards but as we headed out of the town the bus broke down and we had to wait 4 hours for 2 buses to take us on. Filled in the time looking round Calitzdorp and of course buying up supplies of the excellent Port. Drove through amazing rock formations in a gorge then rolling cropping country back out to the coast and onwards to Hermanus. Wonderful shore based Whale watching place. No 41er's here so had free night and enjoyed the local cuisine.



Day 18: Started day watching mother and calf whales while we had breakfast, just off shore from dining



room!! Enjoyed the town and watched so many whales so close to shore, amazing.



Had lunch there then

on via scenic coastal route to Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, Cape Town for our last 4 nights.

Handbrake on bus no longer works.

Day 19: Day trip to Cape Peninsular. Rather wet morning, air-con couldn't keep up with condensation, wipers on bus had stopped working so stopped to get them fixed, still have to put chocks under wheels wherever we stop, good for a laugh though. Travelled past the 13 Km long Shanty town



stopped at Muizenberg Beach with it's cool bathing huts, yes rather chilly, no thoughts of swim! On to Simon's Town a



delightful looking place, if it had been fine. Then on to

Hout Bay for Fish n Chips lunch at Snoekie's, delicious. The day improved and sun came out as we went to meet the Somerset West 41er's at their Clubhouse, another great night where we had long talk with Past Pres. Terry and Jolentha Walsh.

Day 20: Lovely day and drive through wine route scenic countryside, stopped at



Stellenbosch, beautiful architecture in this old town then on through Franschoek to Vrede en Lust winery for tasting and lunch, lovely place. Stopped at entrance to Prison where Mandela

was held before going on through Paarl to another winery run by a 41er, more tastings then to another Braai on a hillside with 41er's, best cooks on the trip, great evening, wonderful sunset, so much fun and fellowship.



Day 21: Trip to Table Mountain, day started with top in the clear but as we arrived to go up the veils of fog came down, quite eerie going up into nothing and only cables in sight! However the



veils lifted and we did get the views, cold winds and no sun for the group photo. Back down and through City and relaxed lunch hour at V.A. waterfront very nice spot with plenty of



Retail Therapy. Then went northward around coast to opposite Robbin Island where Mandela was held and found a very pleasant bar overlooking bay for drinks before going for evening with 41er's of Durbell Club,



clubhouse there has the Round Table Logo done in the pavers, Wow. Yet again another wonderful evening of fun and fellowship, amazing hospitality.

Day 22: The long trip home, about 36 hours, with a 12 hour stopover in Singapore, most of us have coughs and colds but those can be cured at home

A huge thank you to all who made this possible, 41er's Association of Southern Africa, our wonderful hosts, Kevin Huxham of Apex 40 Australia who when he couldn't find enough Apexians to fill the tour asked us and Club 41 New Caledonia to fill to tour and we did and of course our amazing Tour Leader Nico McNamara and his helpers.

A brilliant tour we will all remember, 41 Club at it's very best.

Derek Johns