

The Reunion Ramble

Centenary Matrics 50th Reunion

Isn't it funny that some of one's best school days can take place 50 years after you leave Matric?

In October 2022 a group of us celebrated our 50th Reunion and the school's 150 Jubilee, by walking 150km to Founders' Day at Selborne. Starting at the Mbashe River, we spent a week renewing and deepening our friendships while leisurely strolling down the magnificent Wild Coast.

The Ramblers

Three couples came out from Australia to share the experience:



Andrew Bergman & Sonja



Stephen Marais & Margaret



Thys van Heerden & Gail

And the locals were:



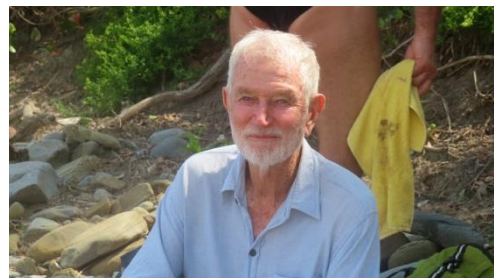
Alan Sanders & Liz



Andrew Stevens



Mike Perks



Trevor Webster, our Eng/Hist teacher



Gene Renou -
Honorary Old Boy



Rod Boy



Gerald Berlyn – always
around to help



Tubby Reid



George Euvrard & Gwenda



Pikkie Joynt



Steve Clarke

And then guess who joined us at Kei Mouth:



Dion van Heerden

The Ramble

Day 1: Meet at Gonubie and travel up to The Haven



Everyone looking bemused as George points to the real start 150km away.

The true South African spirit of everyone cheering on the one working.



The convoy arrives and permits are sorted.

The camaraderie was infectious, right from the start.



Brothers (and sisters) in arms.



Our lovely overnight spot at The Haven with hosts Sue and Glyn

Day 2: The Haven to Nqabarha



First we cross the brown and mighty Mbashe River.



A barefoot stroll to a bit of shipwreck and ancient Khoikhoi shell midden.



Negotiating the cliffs when the beach runs out.



Down into the Dwesa Marine Reserve.



The inevitable drying of feet after yet another river crossing.



Andrew B fails with an attempted double somersault into the 'pool'.



Delightful detours through the villages, chatting to the locals.



This is, indeed, a beautiful part of the world.



A final crossing before home on the hill at the Nqabarha Eco-River Lodges



Celebrating a fine start to the Reunion Ramble: Andrew, Mike, Gene, Pikkie, Steve & Mat.



Every evening we shared our day's experiences and planned for the morrow.

Day 3: Nqabarha to Mazeppa Bay



Another glorious day begins



Helping each other along the way



Just the sand and the surf.



The octogenarian shows the youngsters how it's done.



Take that, Titanic!



Rivers ...



... and rivers ...



... and more rivers ...



... but sometimes you get lucky.



Looking back towards Kob Inn

Day 4: Mazeppa Bay to Wavecrest



The manne trying to emulate Pikkie who is the real thing.

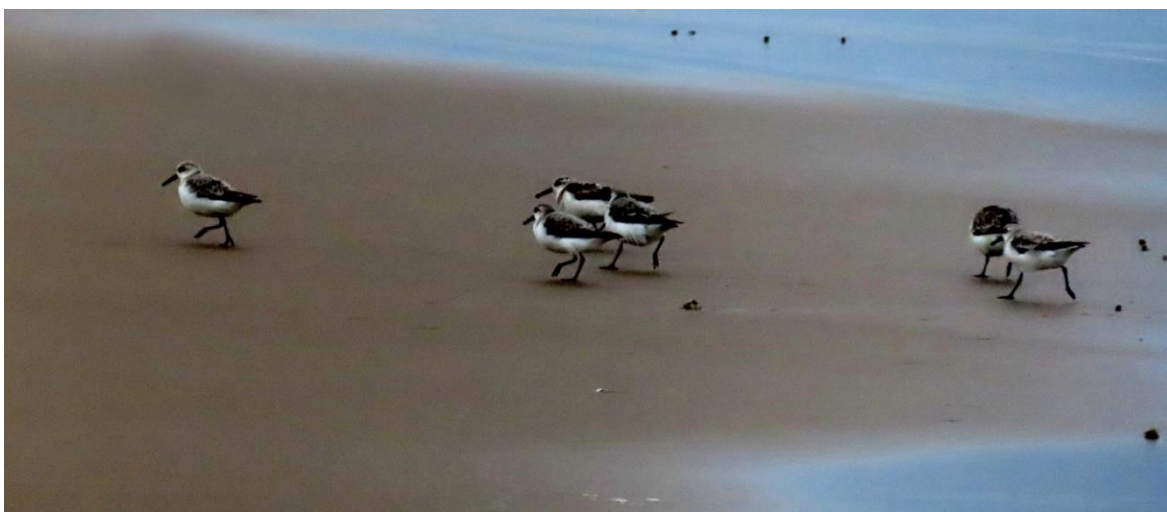


Even on a rainy day, these breaks are special ...



... as are these quiet times together.

The joy of being with nature...





The tranquillity of the Nxaxo River at Wavecrest ...



... disturbed only by the nearby wildlife

Mat, Andrew, Tubby, Pikkie, Steve, Rodney & Gene.

Day 5: Wavecrest to Kei Mouth



Posing with our courtesy vehicle that Rod organised.

Huddling together for warmth



Ah, this is much better than swimming!



“... and just up this river is where Nongqawuse had her visions ...”



There was always a helping hand, every time, every place.

Why some of us should never do ballet.



The long trudge to the Kei River.

The pont also beats swimming.





Tell us another one, just like the other one, tell us another one do!



Local Ken Hillstead explaining life to Thys in three easy steps



Raising a toast to another local, Neil Brill

Day 6: Kei Mouth to Haga Haga



If you can't be with the one you love, well then love the one you're with.
Words by Stephen Stills.



The Morgan Bay beach.



The local pensioners wave us by ...



“Please take a picture of me! I have taken all the photos so far.”



Picture perfect.



Another rough day in Africa.



I thought you said it was up to your knees, Dion?



Tea time!



Where's the path?



Haga Haga – so nice, you say it twice.

Day 7: Haga Haga to Chintsa



Haga – childhood memories for many of us.



Porpoises playing at Pullen's Bay.



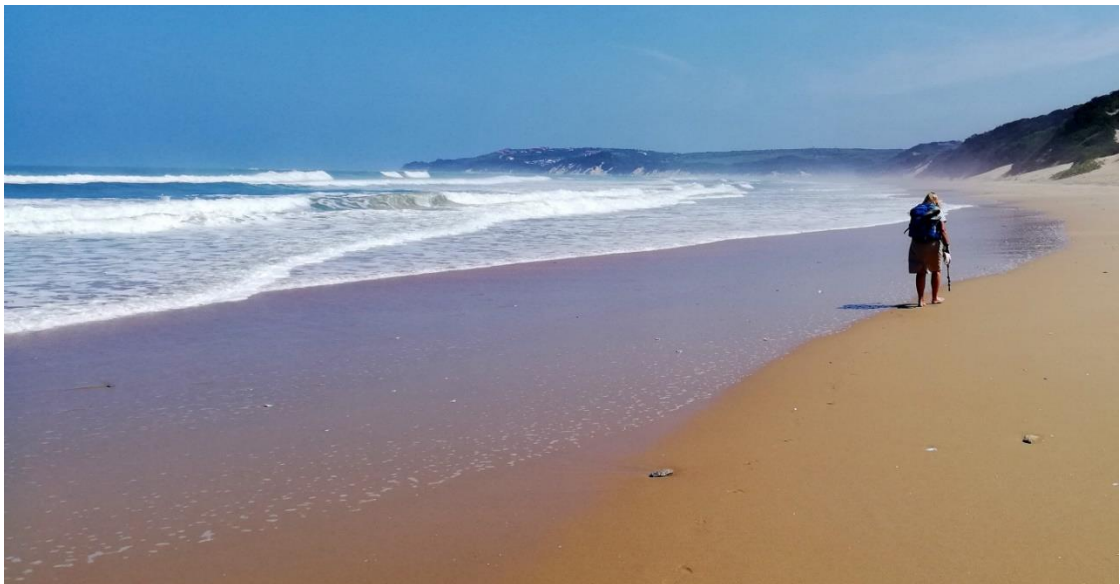
The long beaches past Bosbokstrand.

The whales gave us a show almost every day ...





Walking together, sometimes talking, sometimes just in companionable silence ...



... and sometimes just in your own little world



The beautiful view at Buccaneers (the background of Chintsa isn't bad either).

Day 8: Chintsa to Gonubie



Into the morning mist go the motley crew.



At times the footing is solid ...



... at times it is rather rocky ...



... and sometimes it doesn't matter



The Kwelerha allowed heroes to emerge.



Nearly there, and by now these rivers are mere hiccups.



And joining us this night was the Founder's Day Guest of Honour, Fraz (Michael Francis) himself ...



... and the back-up band of Gidon Cohen and Gordon Keyter ...



... David de Lacey ...



... Stompie (Mark McWilliam) ...



... Harry Brownlow-Hewitt ...



... Leon Rusterberg ...



... and Ron Wilde

Day 9: Gonubie to Selborne



Nahoon Beach is in sight – the place of our youth, our adventures, romances and dreams.



A last bit of beach to walk ...



... a last river to wade.



We were honoured with an escort of a hundred Selborne schoolboys for the last few kays.



Andrew explains the significance of our Jubilee Tree.



We all take a hand at planting it good and proper.



Heke! Sifikile ngoku. A last pose next to the Selborne Jubilee Clock Tower. End of the journey, but a lifetime of memories to keep it alive forever.