

## Trails Club Weekend away - Houdenbek Farm Koue Bokkeveld Ceres

24 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010

Brian and Sue Ford organized a wonderful weekend away in the Koue Bokkeveld region. The farm Houdenbek forms part of the Morester farms which are large fruit and vegetable growing concerns.

Our accommodation consisted of a lovely old Victorian style house built in the 1930s and a nearby cottage which used to be the horse stables.

After lunch on Friday, we

went walking near the homestead, saw the Sandriver dam and the ruins of a laborer's cottage built close to a stream where past floods had destroyed the jeep track.

The group set off at 9.15 on Saturday morning for the walk to the Heiveld Arch. The first stop was to see the Bushman paintings. The next part of the hike followed a stream and rose steeply at times allowing stunning views of the valley below and the amazing rock formations. Stopped for lunch at the Arch and then headed back using the same route arriving back at 2.30. Carol braved a swim in the dam. Margareth did a great job as 'Tail end Charlie' – and was rewarded with a chocolate that evening for her efforts.



On Sunday morning, some of the group took a short hike up to the ridge below Tafelberg. With a pleasant route past a newly planted pear orchard and back via one of the many dams. We were accompanied by the resident bull terrier who was christened Varkie van der Merwe.

In between the hikes, Sue and Brian organized games of Boule and mini Golf, and in the evenings, there were fiercely contested games of 30 Seconds.

Tommy was the undisputed winner of the mini Golf and a close second to Brian in the Boule.



The 30 Seconds was so noisy that Gudrun decided to join in on the second night, knowing that she would have not sleep while the game was on. As first timers, she and Wolfgang surprised us all and were among the stars of the show!

On both evenings, we braaied at the bottom of the garden. The 'Braaied Marshmallow Dessert on a Stick' was perfected by Barbara who managed to fit at least 3 on her stick at a time. The Pick 'n Pay chocolate marshmallows, donated by Carol are highly recommended.

All in all a most enjoyable weekend with good company and wonderful surrounds. A big thank you from all to Brian and Sue for their hard work.

- Phillip Williams



*Fossilized markings of shells on the rocks above.*