

## **Bev & PC – 2012 Africa Safari**

### **Kleinmond – Zambezi – Discovering new places**

Our first stop was Victoria West and we camped at Paradise Farm some 3kms north of Vic West 200m off N12.

Pleasant campsite with good ablutions. Did not meet the owners – the Oliviers', they were in Kimberley.

Mokala National Park, south of Kimberley was next stop. Splendid place with really good camping facilities – own ablutions and kitchen area. We were scheduled to stay for 2 nights, but I'd broken a tooth on a roll which was my breakfast on the first morning of our trip. I thought I might be able to live with the inconvenience for the 3 months, but by the third day my tongue was being torn to shreds by the broken tooth. So we contacted the owners of the B&B in Jhb where we were staying. Janine Hobbs very kindly arranged an appointment for me with a dentist friend of hers. So we headed for the Big Smoke just after lunch on our first day.

Mokala is worth visiting – magnificent Camelthorn trees, plenty of antelope, buffalo and rhino. Certainly worth a visit.

Lennie Shulman fixed my tooth in no time and at half the price my Cape Town dentist charges.

We had dinner with Andrew and girlfriend Andrea, played golf at Wanderers (very badly), visited friends and had dinner with the Smiths, people we met when we lived in Durban.

Next stop was Marakele National Park in the Waterberg north of Thabazimbi. Another great place. The park is divided into two parts one with antelope and rhino, the other with the rest of the big 5. Saw rhino, but despite driving for over 4 hours, none of the other b5. The drive to the top of the mountain is spectacular though.

After two nights, we headed for Francistown and the drive through the bushveld on the SA side was magnificent.

Two nights at Woodlands just outside Francistown with plenty birdlife, and on our way to the Zambezi.

There was a diesel shortage in Kazangula/Kasane, but we were directed to a little service station on the Zimbabwe road. There was quite a queue there. Despite the delay we got to Katima Mulilo in Namibia in time to see – with beer in hand - the sun set over the Zambezi. The cry of the fish eagle and the grunt of the hippo told us we were in the real Africa.



Mokala NP



1 Marakele NP - On way down Waterberg

2 Marakele NP - African Stonechat



Woodlands - Guess who came for lunch?

Namwi Island - Katima Mulilo

