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Newsletter from District Governor Rob Fowler to the Lions, Lionesses and Leos of District 410B, Southern Africa

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## Limpopo safari to see the busy Lions!



**“Pietersburg Lion Safari Services”** - LP Willem Fourie and Paul du Randt (above), Paul & Dalise Venter, Hennie van Niekerk and driver “Cassie” made sure that we had a wonderful time. We were later joined in the reserve for a braai by Lions Raymond Katzman and Jacqueline du Randt.



Add to that idyllic wilderness scene a well worn Series II Land Rover with an ancient V6 Ford engine and a slowly deflating rear tyre and a leaky radiator. The brakes also need to be constantly “*pomped*” to bring this great metal steed to a stop.

It takes brave Lions to go on an afternoon safari to the wildest and most untamed parts of the local “Polokwane National Park”. Located only about 10km from the centre of this metropolis formerly known as Pietersburg is a wilderness experience second to none. **The wildlife is great but it is the famed local Lions that really make this an unforgettable experience!**

The beers and “*sippies*” were deliciously cold and that - together with the fun and the laughter is what really counts! The outside temperature had dropped from the high 30’s of the previous few days to a deceptively mild and overcast 28 degrees C. Mix this together and you have a sure-fire recipe for a fine time in Africa!



Our local Pietersburg “*groot-wild-jagters*” proudly told us how well they knew every dusty track of this - their local stomping ground. I knew after about an hour of bumpy roads that there might be something wrong when I had spotted my 76th White Rhino and stumbled upon the 44th group of three gawking giraffes. We had stopped counting the vast herds of impala, waterbuck and wildebeest that were around every turn. It eventually dawned on our little happy group that maybe we were just a bit lost! Let me rephrase that - seriously lost and going around in ever diminishing circles while we anxiously watched the engine temperature gauge creep ever steadily upwards. I “promised” that I would not break it to the rest of the district that our fine Pietersburg guides were lost in their own backyard! But then of course, in mitigation, there was the heat and the steady flow of beers and “*sippies*” and - of course - it was a wonderful day to be out of the office and in the bush!



## “Akademie Reforma” gets Lions support!



**Pietersburg Lions** have agreed to support a new special school in Polokwane for physically and mentally challenged children. The school presently has 9 children. At their Club GBM a cheque in the amount of **R56 550** was handed to the principal Marietta Nel and her colleague by Club President Willem Fourie. The school will be set up with the hands-on support of the Lions Club and will be a great asset to the town and its community. **WELL DONE PIETERSBURG!!**

The Pietersburg Lions now meet in the **Botha Moth Shellhole** and it is certainly a fascinating venue with the most amazing military memorabilia on display. It certainly was interesting indeed!!



### Did you know?

A little koppie in Polokwane Nature Reserve is the only place in the world where the this rare “*Beeskloutjie*” (*Lithops optica*) species is found. After the rains this interesting plant swells up and resembles a cattle hoof.

For info go to <http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantklm/lithooptica.htm>

## “Sout van die aarde” in Soutpansberg!

The Lions in Soutpansberg under the capable leadership of Lion **Andre van der Westhuizen** have been very active in meeting the varied needs of their community . It was wonderful to attend their meeting and see three new excited Lions being inducted into their Club.



Sponsor Lion Stephane vd Westhuizen presents **Freek Wepener** with his new Lions badge while his wife - also newly inducted, **Mariette Wepener**, looks on. Lion Elna Nell sponsored **Wilfred Hand** who was also inducted into the Club. **Veels geluk nuwe Lions!!**

**Both Pietersburg and Soutpansberg have a super vibe and it is really wonderful to see great family involvement and a good number of young Leo’s (and future Lions) in training!!**



Soutpansberg was awarded the “**David Nunes ZONE 10 - Spirit Award**” by ZC Martin Froise. This floating trophy is presented in honour of David and will be awarded annually by the ZC to the club in the zone that shows the most Lions spirit and comradeship! **Well done Andre!**

# Upcoming Events

Please diarise the following Lions events:

**24 March** - Lions Operation BrightSight Boat Race at Zoo Lake

**21 April** - Worldwide Induction Day

**25 - 30 April** - MD410 EGOLI 2007 CONVENTION at BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE - Boksburg

**20 May** - proposed **Cabinet and Club Officers** Training

**3 June** - proposed **Club President's Instruction Weekend**

**July 2007** -90th **International Convention** in Chicago

**November 2007** - 35th **ISAAME Forum** - Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Weltevreden met 'n kaalkop vir CANSA!

*Original story by RC Peggy du Plooy*



**Weltevreden Lions** made a "hair removing" statement at the Clearwater Mall in Roodepoort on Saturday March 3 during the **Cansa-Shavathon drive**. Vice President **Wessel Dippenaar** and his team of Lions including a prospective Lion did an outstanding job to raise funds for the Cancer Association. The Lions Club of Weltevreden was certainly very visible in their green club shirts busy shaving off, or considerably shortening, the hair of the public who stood in long queues all day to express their solidarity with cancer sufferers everywhere.

All day the Lions "shlaved" away to support this amazing cancer awareness and fundraising drive. The Cansa-shavathon is the Cancer Association of South Africa's largest fund-raising event and takes place in an 18 month cycle in over 55 shopping centres across South Africa. **WELL DONE WELTEVREDEN LIONS!!**

Have banner will travel!



In December our intrepid adventurers Lion President **Yvonne Phillips** and **Patrick Dillon** of LC Krugersdorp travelled to Mendoza in Argentina to tackle Mount **Aconcagua** - the highest mountain in South America and second highest in the world.

In their hiking kit was a DG's 410B banner.

The mountain is unforgiving and the whole party of climbers was not able to summit due to appalling weather conditions up on the barren higher slopes. Howling winds and freezing temperatures together with a bout of altitude sickness put paid to their well prepared efforts. Nonetheless our climbers returned back home safely with their well traveled DG's banner to tell the tale!

It takes a brave mountain climber to see the summit and come down in one piece rather than get to the top but not have the strength to come down again. Yvonne says she'll stick to the lower slopes for a while! We are very proud of your brave efforts!

**LCI EXCHANGE RATE = 7,03 March 2007**

We hope that your District 410B newsletter will continue to stimulate your service activities and encourage a flow of interesting information of relevance to Lions.

Kindly forward any articles and best quality .jpg or .tif images for publication to DG Rob Fowler at [robfi@iafrica.com](mailto:robfi@iafrica.com) and we'll do our best to get them circulated in future editions.