

## Namaqualand Tour 2010.



Ten days, ten folk and great trip lay before us with Zanda in the lead. Being the only Lady rider amongst nine hooligans really took courage and she did an amazing job of it. I know that we all treasured her company. Thursday morning, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, we set off toward Vryburg, Upington, Augrabies and Pella, then down to Hondeklip Bay. Southward bound on day six to the Cedarberg, day seven at Tankwa Karoo where the night was spent just above Gannaga Pass. Last but not least was spent on Verneuk Pan before the journey home commenced.



**Zanda our Fearless Leader.**

Zanda explored a new route (We never get lost. Point) just before Upington, which was the first taste of gravel for some of our overseas visitors. Steve has done a trip with me before but for Bert, Stuart and Donnie it was a first. When we regrouped in Olifantshoek I was greeted by a group of dusty faced riders and they could not stop jabbering about how great their first gravel route experience had been.



**Stuart and Steve taking a bath in the Orange River.**

From Ugrabies we took mainly dirt roads to Pella where the night was spent on the banks of the Orange River overlooking Namibia. Ablutions being non-existent so bathing in the cool waters of the Orange River was an exhilarating experience, so I was told by those who braved the chilly waters.



**Klipspringer.**

From Pella mainly Tar Roads; or “Slabs” as the Scots called it, to Springbok and then onto Wildeperdehoek Pass and Hondeklip Bay, here it was decided to have a rest day and take in some time for laundry, sight seeing and local cuisine at the tiny little restaurant in the bay. Unfortunately sea food was unavailable as the fishermen had not been out to sea for a week due to bad weather conditions. Hake and Hamburgers were still available, thankfully, and cool drinks were plentiful. That evening everyone was in high spirits around the camp fire at Skulpieskraal where Donnie made the remark “there are more Characters on this trip than in the Beeno Comic Book”, very true, we were a diverse group but all got along exceptionally well.



**Wilperdehoek Pass.**



**Byron at Wilperdehoek Pass.**



**Hondeklipbaai.**

From Hondeklip we headed south for the Cedar Berg, stocked up in Clan William and travelled the scenic routes south toward Ceres. Wednesday morning we travelled via Katbakkies Pass to Tankwa Karoo Nature Reserve, up Gannaga pass and spent the evening at the Gannaga Lodge. Thursday Middlepos for fuel and breakfast, Branvlei for lunch and onto Verneuk Pan.



**Gannaga Pass.**

At Verneuk Pan we heard thunder in the distance and were warned by the owners that if it rains for more than ten minutes we should abandon the camp but fortunately not a drop fell and the evening was once again spent under a starry sky after viewing the great sunset that the pan always offers.



**Verneuk Pan Group Photo.**

Another great trip had come to an end and we are already planning something for next year with the lads from UK, probably July 2011 to Limpopo and Tuli Block. Thanks again to Hardy, Zanda, Kevin, JJ, Stuart, Steve, Bert, Donnie and Byron, it was an awesome trip, could not have been done without you.