

4x4 Cape – Klein Tafelberg | 30 April – 3 May 2026

Situated about two hours from Cape Town in the heart of the Sandveld, Klein Tafelberg offers a bit of everything: challenging 4x4 trails, hiking routes, a shooting range, swimming pool, boma and even a bar, all of which our group enthusiastically participated in. Our accommodation ranged from camping to glamping to chalets.



Thursday – Braais and Beanies

Some arrived as early as Thursday, with braai circles forming spontaneously. The camping chairs almost arranged themselves. Beanies and jackets appeared as the temperature dropped, while electric blankets were secretly switched on in preparation for a cosy night.



Friday – Kuiering and Karaoke

There were many takers for the shooting range. Those who were interested came prepared with ammunition and firearms. From the campsite we could hear the occasional distant *twa-twa* of echoing shots. Others went off on scenic drives, taking in the spectacular views. The rock formations were fascinating, and the clouds added their usual drama to the skies.





A handful of eager 4x4ers even went off to do a bit of reconnaissance on the trails we'd be tackling the next day. Just to "have a look".

Friday evening was relaxed and social. People wandered between campsites, greeting, catching up, comparing setups and doing what we do best – *kuiering*. Some showed off their cooking skills – not only delicious flame-grilled *braaivleis*, but there were also aromas of truffle risotto and meaty oxtail drifting across the camp sites. Somewhere in between Dietrich and Sue introduced us to something officially known by Sue as "Caramel Vodka Dreams".



The vodka set off a chain of events. As the evening rolled on, someone threw a magic potion into the fire and suddenly we had blue flames flickering away like a stage backdrop. Our resident karaoke queen, Sugx, assembled a group of keen ladies and turned the campfire into a mini concert. Not to be outdone, Nano – AKA - Elton John – stepped up for a dramatic rendition of *Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me*, backing vocals provided by Paul H.



Eventually we drifted off to our various beds, tents and trailers for a sound night's sleep.

Saturday – Traffic and Teamwork

Saturday morning kicked off with a proper no-nonsense 4x4 briefing from Ashleigh, joined by our safety officer Lindsay. Indemnities signed, radios checked, instructions given.



The most important instruction being “make sure everything is strapped down”, followed by comments about “keeping your wives strapped in”. Then remarks escalated, as they do, into “sports bras”, “underwear” and “nappies” – to keep this PG, I’m leaving it just there!

A short while into the drive, after a bit of confusion between groups and radio channels, we suddenly had a peak hour traffic jam in the middle of the mountains! But – in classic 4x4 Cape style - calm heads prevailed. Members with technical 4x4 knowledge and experience stepped in to guide, direct and get us moving again. Teamwork at its best!



The conditions were challenging with deep winding sand sections (recommended 0.8 bar) and rocky steps. It was helpful that every route had a clearly marked signpost with recommendations for how best to handle each section.



Some vehicles sailed through while others worked a bit harder. A few got stuck and some picked up minor battle scars - all part of the course and all excellent learning experiences. If the weekend taught us anything, it's that *tyre pressure really matters* in these conditions.



Many walked up the sandy sections, feet sinking with every step, just to get the perfect photo or video. Debbie took a well-timed video from the back seat of Mari's Hilux when she expertly tackled the "milkshake" section. It shows a lot of bouncing and flying red hair!

Then there was "The Rock"- steep, technical, and not for the faint-hearted. Some took it on and conquered it. Others wisely chose the escape route.



We regrouped at the top for a well-earned breather, and some snacks and drinks. The perfect opportunity for a group photo. In the end it took us 5 hours and 14kms.



Saturday Evening – Shooters and Stories

Back at camp, the boma became home base for the traditional communal braai. A big thank you to Danie, Kevin and Rian, who carried wood and built fires.



Chairs were squeezed in tighter as more people trickled in - because there's always space for one more! Sweet treats and savoury bites were passed around. There were at least three rounds of shooters circulating – some delicious, some medicinal.



Danie, our Chairman, gave a heartfelt campfire speech, thanking Kevin for being “a major driving force behind the scenes”, Ashleigh for organising the 4x4 outing, and reminding new members that asking questions is how we all learn.

He spoke about the three groups within the club – the extreme 4x4 crowd, the general 4x4 adventurers, and the overlanders – and how the committee works hard to accommodate everyone. That’s what makes 4x4 Cape special. Glasses were raised as we toasted to the club.



Later, Danie and Rian took turns entertaining us with long, winding storytelling – always with an unexpected punchline - very *Tolla van der Merwe* style.

Sunday – Goodbyes and Gadgets

Sunday morning brought pack-ups and good-bye hugs. People kept in touch on the WhatsApp group as they headed home. Some stopped to picnic in Hopefield, while others lunched in Dwarskersbos and Laaiplek.

A warm welcome to the new members and to friends who joined us for their first club weekend – we hope it’s the first of many. Thank you to everyone for another unforgettable long weekend.



🏆 Gadget of the Weekend Award – This award is unofficial, highly contested, and goes to the person who causes the most gadget envy. This sought-after award goes to Kevin and his “blower”, AKA, “*Powerful Cordless Electric Air Duster*”. According to him, “Good for dusting the van and getting a fire going”.

Thanks for that 😊 – another completely “necessary” item for us to justify.

By Belinda