

HIGHWAY WAIL

P.O. Box 1721
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MESSAGE TO NATAL HIGHWAY REGION FROM BRIAN COURTIS -
MANAGING DIRECTOR.- NATAL SPRITE (PTY.) LIMITED.

The Executive Committee of the natal region of the C.C.S.A. has for many years resisted splitting the Region and forming a new region. But with increasing numbers attending rallies the inevitable decision has been made; The Natal Highway region is born.

From a personal point of view my family and I have had a long standing-association with the "Banana" region and we will continue and enjoy the wonderful friendships that we have made as a result of our rallying over the years with that Region. In recalling these friendships the names of Derek and Win Clarke feature prominently, and I take this opportunity to thank them both for the tremendous contribution they made to caravanning when some twenty-three years ago they formed natal Region. Since the end of Derek's ten years in the Chair other notable caravanners who are still active ralliers today have held the reins and been responsible for the healthy growth of the Region. Here I recall and say thanks to Percy and Gwen Johnson, Dennis and Barbara Poplett and more recently Lionel and Gessie Keeling. They and their various committee members are all the true Mothers and fathers of what is our new natal Highway Region.

I sincerely hope that much visiting of the parents and the children and vice versa will take place at future rallies of both Regions.

In 1981 Natal Sprite shared it's coming of age with the Natal region and as it is in my business capacity, that Chairman Lionel Keeling has asked me to write this message; it is with pleasure that I recall also, the excellent co-operation and friendly relations my Company has enjoyed with the C.C.S.A. through the Natal Region.

While it is true that the rallying Caravan Club members represent only a small percentage of total caravan ownership, it is also true that it is the largest organized body of caravanners whose combined experiences, needs and opinions are so important to us as caravan dealers. For these reasons and for the sheer enjoyment of caravanning, Natal Sprite has always supported the caravan Club and will continue to do so. At the same time my colleagues and I appreciate the unquestionable support Natal Sprite has received from the Club and its members.

In congratulating Lionel and his committee on the formation of the Natal Highway Region, I also say thank you for asking Natal Sprite to share with you in the celebration of your Inaugural Rally - an occasion we are looking forward to and which we hope will be the first of many more.

BEST OF LUCK AND HAPPY CARAVANNING

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CHAIRMAN'S TITBITS.

Hello Members,

We are making history; this is our first Newsletter for the new Region known as "Natal Highway". Members living in Queensburgh, Yellowwood Park, parts of Hillary and between Westville and Botha's Hill belong to the new region. Our colours will be Royal Blue hats, orange feathers and our emblem will be the Strelitzia, and all insignia will be on sale at our Inaugural Rally. Our membership will be around 470, giving us approximately 45/50 rallying members. I am pleased to report that those members who had reservations about the parting of the Natal Region are now giving us their full support.

The Natal Highway Region officially comes into being at Convention, being held on the 12/13 March in East London, when the flag of the Region will be handed over.

The Committee would like as many members as possible to attend the Inaugural Rally being held on the 26/3/83 at the Natalia Caravan Park, Karridene, (next to Pletthaven). The weekend will cost R10.00 per family and we are pleased to announce that Natal Sprite will be sponsoring the weekend. Our grateful thanks go to Brian Courtis for this fine gesture. Come along and have fun.

Now a little about our last rally at Pletthaven. This was very well attended and my thanks go to Gary and Clare Pakes, for organizing the rally. Again we had members celebrating new vans and I wish them many happy hours of caravanning.

It was nice to see Syd and Glynnis Fredericks and Meryl and Ray Smith back with us after an absence of some considerable time. Do join us again. Syd was again cooking bacon and eggs outside my van at 12.00 in the morning, just like old times.

Brian and Jill Courtis and Gessie and myself attended the formatation of the Seagull Caravan Club on Saturday afternoon. This club has been founded by the Coloured and Indian communities. They had 24 vans which was a very good start and have adopted the same system as the C.C.S.A. as far as rallying and committee work is concerned. we wish them every success.

At Friendly Circle on Sunday, Lindley Siepman read out a poem he had written about the history of the Natal Region and ended with all the members singing, "We'll meet again". It was a very moving moment for all of us. here I would like to express my thanks for the barometer presented to Gessie and myself. It will be a very cherished addition in our home and remind us of all the happy times we have had with Natal Region. Many thanks once again.

In conclusion please members, lets make Highway a very happy and harmonious Region. If you have any suggestions or ideas, which will help towards this end, please let us have them.

Cheerio - Lionel

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VENUES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1983.

26/27 March

NATALIA

Inaugural Rally

1 - 6 April	ESTCOURT	Easter Rally
7/8 May	SALT ROCK	
28/31 May	INCHANGA	
18/19 June	KELSO VALLEY	
30/31 July	PLETTHAVEN	Annual General Meeting
13/14 Aug	WINKELSPRUIP	
3/4 Sept	PIETERMARITZBURG	
8-10 October	BLUE SEAS (ST. MICHAELS)	
5/6 November	UITSPAN	
26/27 November	PLETTHAVEN	Xmas Rally

PARTICIPATION IN OUR NEWS LETTER

As you will notice the very basic nature of our monthly newsletter. At this stage, lack of finance and time precludes a more professional format. We will improve in time, but know that we are a small Region we invite you to participate with items of interest. At this stage please contact our Secretary, Nora Stanton with the following:-

- 1) Intention slip for Estcourt.
- 2) Change of address
- 3) Dates of importance (Anniversary, birthdays, etc)
- 4) A suggestion box will feature in forthcoming editions. Please air your feelings in writing to Nora. We want to print your suggestions and give you an opportunity to air your views. Anonymous suggestions will be reluctantly accepted! Seriously though, let's make Highway region "Our" Region.
- 5) Commemorative 'T' shirts will be on sale at Natalia. Nora will accept advanced bookings.

EASTER RALLY - ESTCOURT 1 - 6 APRIL

John Barnwell has provisionally booked the narrow gauge train that runs between Estcourt and Weenen on Saturday 2nd April. It departs from Estcourt station at 09.15 hours and returns +/- 16.00 hours.

The fare is as follows:-

Adult return first class	R8.20
Children 7-12 years	R4.10
Children under 7 years	Free

A braai or lunch has been suggested at Weenen prior to the return trip. The train has a maximum capacity of 50. Please contact Lionel at home after 18.00 hours at 727658 or any committee member and reserve your seats on a "first come first served" basis.

FUTURE EDITIONS.

It has been suggested that a space is devoted to the following in future editions.

- 1) Recipes suitable for caravanning.
- 2) Maintaining your car and van.
- 3) Children's corner.
- 4) Sick list.

Please participate in the "Highway Wail" and share your thoughts and hints with all of us members.

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Your humble scribe has bowed to intense pressure from Lionel to print the poem read out at Pletthaven, so here goes:-

SAGA OF THE SAILING SHIP

SS NATAL REGION

She was launched ago 2 decades and more
By Derek Clarke to cheers galore.
He skippered her a good ten years
Fun for all and lots of cheers

The old sea dog did not steer solely
He handed over to Ken Bowley
His sailing days were rather short.
But moored her safely - pleasant thought.

The first mate took over from the sponson
Twas the Doctor - Percy Johnson.
He was fantastic, sailed with glee
We remember him so happily.

Dennis Poplett then did the steering
His grip was firm, there was no fearing.
He sailed the ship with a steady hand
We floundered not upon the sand

The next who found the task appealing
Our number five - Lionel Keeling.
He guided us from far to near
What a Captain - Wunderbar.

Now part of the crew must sail away
And leave the rest I'm sad to say.
It's difficult where to begin
I quote a verse from Vera Lynn.

The verse from Vera Lynn will not rhyme
With these simple words of mine.
Please bear with me and appreciate
Her song was so appropriate.

"Now is the hour when we must say goodbye,
Soon you'll be sailing far across the see,
While you'll away, Oh please remember me,
When you return you'll find me waiting here."

To the mothership all we can say.
Is thanks for helping us on our way.

Please stand and hold a hand and then;- -
Sing Vera's song "WE'LL MEET AGAIN"
INAUGURAL RALLY.

Due to the large turnout expected for Natalia, Lionel has requested that members do not arrive until 12.00h on Friday. ray and his merry marshals will be there to meet you and to park your van. Gessie will ensure that you will get a cup

of coffee as you arrive. You will be asked to park in lines as no space has been provided for flag's, bunting, display of new vans etc. Parking in laager formation will unfortunately rob us of valuable space. parking of vans during the week preceding will not be allowed by the Park Management. Please bear with us and ensure that all will enjoy what is sure to be a Rally in a Million.

Gordon intends having a field day selling Smous. We look forward to seeing all the orange-feathered blue hats at friendly circle. Gary Pakes is in charge of entertainment so expect a hetic rally.

STOP PRESS - - HIGHWAY 500 DANCE

This fund raising dance was organized by John Barnwell and thanks to an bumper turnout from the Mother Region, was a complete sellout. Thanks to Dairy Delite and numerous private sponsors, coupled with the usual enthusiastic support of Gessie and her band of happy ladies, prizes were numerous and the food and drink was plentiful and excellently presented. The swinging band included Lynn Cloete on the organ

The big prize of R500 was shared by Vic and Tessa Smith and Peter and Marcel Harrison. Vic and Peter donated R250 back to Highway Region. Thanks Chaps, that is the spirit that our new region needs.

At the end of the big draw, Jan Groen of Durban Gypsey started all by donating R500 and requesting the final draw between Peter and Vic. Peter Harrison was the lucky recipient. Hard luck Vic.

And so ended our first Highway 500 dance. When we look back the success of the evening was due to the enthusiastic support of all the helpers, donators of prizes, food, etc. and ensuring that all the tickets had been sold. maybe we can persuade John to give us a repeat performance later in the year. Thanks to Vic and Tessa Smith for the superb punch.

Well that's all for now. See you at Natalia.

LINDLEY

Note It is disappointing to report that 35 wine glasses disappeared from the dance resulting in the new region having to pay in an amount of R42.52