

## A MOMENT TO REMEMBER



***POLAR BEAR SWIM 2023 -  
BY FELIX BURRI, EVENT ORGANISER***

And so our Polar Bear Swim season comes to an end with the epic weekend at Rogge Cloof Reserve in the Sutherland district. Two swims took place: One day and one night.

Temperatures: day 2°C, night 1°C, water 6°C.

The day swim in blisteringly cold winds attracted 30 swimmers from all over: Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Sutherland, George, and Balfor.

The second swim- the night swim, had two female participants.

The traditional beard auction brought in R4000.00 for the "bokbaardtjie" left over from the Doringbos auction (R5000.00). Two other impromptu auctions for a Willard-sponsored battery and a bucket full of pannekoek and sales of tea, coffee, pannekoek and soup brought the total collected for the day to R13 000.00. Johenco Tehuis vir Bejaardes, in Sutherland, was the recipient of this fundraiser.

Once again, our thanks go out to Rogge Cloof Private Nature Reserve, GOLDCO SPARES (Bloemfontein, Welkom, Odendaalsrus, Virginia, Kroonstad, and Bethlehem), Speciality Oil & Lube, TORQ Lubricants, AmPro Tools, Willard Batteries, Donaldson Filtration, TRW Brakes, Doringbos Venues, HONDA Wing George, Transformers, SARZA, ANTON and Bunny Hop Counselling.

To those of you in the media who helped publicise our event - thank you very much.

Till next year—bigger and better!

Follow us on Facebook: polar bear/ysbeer swem

Polar Bear Swim Greetings,

Felix Burri



**R13 000  
RAISED FOR  
LOCAL CHARITY**



*"It was amazing to see the Polar Bear Swim gaining momentum, from just a few swimmers last year to nearly 30 this year and we hope it will grow from strength to strength."*

- Heike Gernholtz



# EXPERIENCE THE KAROO



The origins of the farm and dark sky reserve Rogge Cloof (meaning rye ravine) date back to 1756, when Joachim Scholtz, the son of German and Nordic immigrants to Africa, acquired the property. Since then over more than 250 years, various owners have loved, nurtured and developed these hostile lands enduring lions, droughts, snow and freezing winds. Located at an altitude of between 1400 to 1700 metres, Rogge Cloof hosts magnificent clear skies and expansive plains.

*Book Now*

[www.roggecloof.com](http://www.roggecloof.com)  
[info@roggecloof.com](mailto:info@roggecloof.com)  
023 004 1161  
\*Airstrip Available

Photographers:  
Charlotte Nicolson  
Paul Nienaber

## PHOTO GALLERY





# INTERESTING FACTS

## A MOMENT WORTH CELEBRATING!

Together with Johan Kruger, Rosa Kruger, Ulrich Gerntholtz and the entire Rogge Cloof Team, a first for South Africa, a Chardonnay hailing from the Sutherland area.



Pictured from left to right: Ulrich Gerntholtz, Johan Kruger, Rosa Kruger, Otto Gerntholtz.

## Happy Heritage Day

### A MOMENT IN TIME



### A ROGGE CLOOF MOMENT

Photo from the early 1990s of the first Gerntholtz owner, Dr Richard Gerntholtz, and one of his grandchildren Willem Duvenhage.

In the background is the original Pearhouse windpump and borehole (around 150 years old) which is still in use and has the sweetest water on Rogge Cloof.

-Otto Gerntholtz



### LOCATION

"Home is where the wine is"



Rogge Cloof Private Nature Reserve

GPS Coordinates:  
32°31'39.2"S 20°38'21.8"E

### RARE SIGHTING



Photo by: Charlotte Nicolson  
Location: Rogge Cloof Private Nature Reserve

Aardvark /'a:dva:k/ noun

A nocturnal badger-sized burrowing mammal of Africa, with long ears, a tubular snout, and a long extensible tongue, feeding on ants and termites.



# BLOG

## YET ANOTHER NEW START - *BY CHARLOTTE NICOLSON, BUSHWISE INTERN.*

As a part of the Bushwise course, they offer a 6-month internship where you can learn the ins and outs of a lodge and get some guiding hours under your belt.

I was placed at a reserve called Rogge Cloof. It is a farm just outside of Sutherland, about a 4-hour drive from Cape Town in South Africa. Sutherland is the coldest place in the Republic and is home to the largest telescope in the Southern Hemisphere. It is known for its incredible night sky, and I can now say that it certainly lives up to its reputation. Starting out anywhere new is a hard thing—knowing where you stand with everyone, learning what you can and can't do, and getting into a new routine. I have been here for 2 months now, and I would say I'm starting to get used to the routine.

As a field guide, you have to accept the fact that you are going to be up early and get home late, on your feet for most hours of the day, and have little time to yourself. I arrived at Rogge Cloof in the middle of winter, and being from Durban, I am not used to the cold.

I will admit I struggled; the pain of the cold was very unpleasant at first, and there is no escaping it—inside is almost colder than outside; we had ice along the walls of our shower, but being in an eco-friendly village, we cannot use heaters or much electricity (everything is solar powered). I spent a lot of time around the fires made in the dining hall. On the bright side, it was my first time seeing falling snow. I would get up in the morning and walk outside to a blanket of white over the karoo. I would walk from my accommodation to work and see Salpeterkop in the distance with the sun rising just next to it (Salpeterkop is the youngest volcano in Southern Africa and was last active 65 million years ago).

Huddling around a fire as a team will always be a good memory as we laughed at the conditions we were working in. Quite quickly, I learned how to keep warm with all my layers. I have been learning to cook cheap and quick meals because, when I get home at 10 p.m., the last thing I feel like doing is taking an hour to cook dinner, so I am learning to balance it all together.



## NEW TO ROGGE CLOOF



Hi, I'm Ané.

I grew up on a farm just outside of Sutherland where I was home schooled for my whole school career. I always had a passion for nature, animals and the small things in life. Ever since Rogge Cloof gave me the opportunity to work here I've learned so much. Every day is a new adventure