

OP Class of 1976 holds their class reunion

by Graham Louw



The class of 1976 gathered for their 48th-year reunion during the week of 11 – 15 November. Aably organised by a small team of classmates overseen by Graham Louw and centred at the Fairy Knowe Hotel in the Wilderness area, 22 veterinarians attended along with their partners. Some of our classmates stayed at the neighbouring Ebb and Flow SANParks camping site, others in private accommodation, and a couple live locally. Also attending was local veterinarian Shirley Searle (Smith), an honorary member of our class due to the inordinate time that she spent on the Old Res balcony.

During the days, people were free to explore the beauty of the area. There were canoe trips up the Touws River, walks through the indigenous forest, bird watching, visits to surrounding areas as far as the Cango Caves, and merely sitting around catching up and telling stories.



On the first evening there was an informal get-together over cocktails and snacks where old friendships were renewed along with plenty of laughter and general catching up.

On the second evening a buffet dinner was hosted by the Hotel, accompanied by the projection of photographs and video clips with short talks and stories by various attendees. These accentuated the variety of ways a veterinarian's life can evolve and many hilarious reminiscences of life at OP were shared. Tribute was paid to those who could not attend the reunion due to living abroad or ill health at the moment, as well as to the 10 colleagues who have passed away since our graduation.



The third evening was free for people to do whatever they chose, and the final evening was a very special farewell braai' organised by the Hotel.



Thank you to June Williams for sharing with us the beautiful, laminated bookmarks that she had made during the recent pandemic.

Friday saw everybody dispersing after an amazing four days of camaraderie, with vows to keep in touch and to reassemble for our 50th reunion in 2026, hopefully in Namibia. Sadly the mystery of who put the horse's embalmed appendage in Jane Pistorius's bed all those years ago remains a great mystery.....

