



OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2019



"You are the same today, you are going to be in 5 years time, except for 2 things – the people you meet, and the books you read" - Charlie "tremendous" Jones

We were so privileged this year to have the opportunity to guide and host clients on the Orange river in Douglas, and in the Richtersveld. We fished in places like Blouputs, Pella and Onssepkans, on halfway stops between the two venues. It is amazing to experience the

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Orange river in all its diversity. Lots of fish in some venues, and then really big fish in others. Higher and lower flows, from some really cold weather conditions, to hot days, we had it all. and still the fish played along. Our clients, and in between trips ourselves, were blessed with some real trophy Large- and Smallmouth yellows. And that said, it would be a sad day if this is all it is about.



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Like the quote by Charlie “tremendous” Jones at the top of the page would suggest, this letter is not about the fish. And I will hope “the books you read” this year, enriched your lives.

This month I would like to focus on and say thanks to “the people you meet”. If one hangs around with thinkers, one becomes a better thinker, hang around positive people, you yourself will be more positive, hang around successful people, one becomes more successful, or if you hang around a bunch of thumb sucking, always complaining and bitching boneheads you will surely be a better thumb sucking complaining and bitching bonehead!



Other than “the books you read”, one cannot always choose “the people you meet”. In our case, we meet new clients on a regular basis, and are then “exposed” to them for 24 hours a day (yip, we know who snores) days on end. In the Richtersveld there is not even a way out, we are stuck with you. So, if according to Charlie, one’s future character is at stake, this can be quite a risk.

The truth is though, that in my own experience over the last 4 months, there is no risk, only gain. Since joining Hunter Fisher 4 months ago, I would beg to say, that both myself and Jacques’ lives has been greatly enriched by those of you who joined us on a trip this year. There is just something special about people who choose to follow this pursuit of ours. Having bumped into a few glorious arseholes in my life, I became curious as to why they do not attempt to do a trip with us? We were somehow been put in a position of avoiding these

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people, and not necessarily by our own choosing. It just seems that they do not like to swing the long rod with a bunch of feathers and fur toward a fish.



Although the distractions and stress of modern life can make even the best of us allow one of these arseholes to momentarily live through us, it seems that when we make the conscious choice to leave it all behind for a few days to go fishing, one allows yourselves to just be the person you are.



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As we work in nature, and the logistics can be quite challenging, especially in the Richtersveld, things are not always perfect. From sudden cold weather in November to rain in September. One day the wind was so bad, we had to move our planned camp to another site. The fish also added its fair share. Broken backing and lost fly lines, snapping tippet and even a reel that seized up, resulting in losing a real dragon of a Largie (now you know why we shit on your head when you put your reel in the sand). Guides shitting on your head if you put your reel in the sand or mend upstream when you should mend downstream. There are always some things that can cause epic disappointments. And still your spirits stayed up there. Still the banter around the campfire in the evenings were friendly and humorous.

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Me and Jacques both agree, that we are so privileged to when we work, we not just get to share our experience and passion with you but get our share of the best of each one of you. I can not wait to meet the person I will be in 5 years' time.

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Thank you all. Have a blessed holiday season, and next year, when the asshole wants to swear at the old lady driving to slow in front of you, go fishing.

Best Regards,

Jacques and Etienne

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