

Lighthouse 2 Lighthouse:

20 March 2019

Walking in my shoes

Writer & Photographer
Taylum Meyer

When I began working for The Village NEWS and first heard about the Lighthouse 2 Lighthouse Ladies Walk, I was in awe of their incredible efforts to raise funds for local charities. This year I was thrilled to be able to join the courageous and determined L2L ladies on their four-day, 100 km coastal hike in aid of this year's beneficiary, Camphill School Hermanus.

The journey was mentally and physically challenging but also enriching in ways I could never have imagined.

Day 1: On Thursday, 7 March I was off to Gateway Centre at 05:00 with my luggage. Freshly-brewed coffee awaited us at Spar, which had opened its doors early so that we could do any last-minute shopping. At 05:45, the L2L patron, Nicolette Johnson, wished us farewell and good luck and by 06:15 we were on the bus to the Cape Agulhas Lighthouse, where our 100 km walk would begin.

Members of Spar Western Cape, Camphill School Hermanus and SANParks were waiting for us on the field below the lighthouse when we arrived. We were all full of excitement and for those of us walking for the first time, also slightly nervous as we wondered if we would be up to the task.

We set off from the lighthouse into Agulhas National Park just as a light drizzle started to fall. The scenery was breath-taking and the terrain consisted of gravel roads, beach (sandy and stony) and a coastal footpath. Police kept an eye on our progress for the first two days as certain areas along

Beanery set the pace which was brisk, but we were all able to keep up and were blessed to have a dry lunch break. Shortly after that, however, the rain and wind really picked up and we were battered for the rest of the walk. We were all soaked to the bone by the time we reached the Spar flags marking the end of day one's walk at Brandfontein Farmstead.

Our wonderful bus drivers were waiting at Brandfontein to take us to Die Dam Resort, our accommodation for the duration of the walk. We were relieved to get back to camp where hot coffee from The Beanery and banana bread from Food Lover's Market awaited us. It was bitterly cold and I couldn't wait to get my luggage, have a hot shower and change into dry clothes. Dinner consisted of a delicious lasagne made by The Eatery, followed by koeksisters and more coffee.

It was a sociable evening where we had the chance to mingle and get to know our fellow walkers. Back in my chalet I found myself falling asleep very quickly on what felt like the most comfortable bed in the world – which I supposed any bed would be after an 18 km hike in the rain!

Day 2: On Friday morning we met at 06:00 for breakfast and by 06:45 we were on the busses once more, heading back to Brandfontein to start the second day's walk – 19 km along the beach, coastal footpaths and jeep tracks. Although the day was overcast, we were blessed to have a light drizzle only here and there. We were left to finish the walk at our own pace for the last 5 km as it ended at the camp. I took advantage of this and slowed down to enjoy the scenery and take some photographs which