

# SIGHT SEEING IN A SIDECAR



*Lance Speirs on his 1976 Chang Jiang motor-cycle on which he sometimes takes people on a drive to see the sights of Prince Albert. Photo: Hannes Visser*

PRINCE ALBERT NEWS - It might be a good idea for those who want to see the sights of Prince Albert from a different perspective to seek out the company of an ex-teacher called Lance Speirs.

He might just be in a good mood or not too busy at his guest house to offer you a ride through the village in the sidecar of his army issue motorcycle.

Lance and his father each have a 750cc Chang Jiang motorcycle. The motor cycles are ex-Chinese army models from 1976 and are based on the 1938 BMW R71 which was used during the second world war. Once

one has squeezed into the side car and Lance has kicked the engine to life people along the streets of Prince Albert take notice.

Lance explains that he does not do pleasure trips on demand but is quite willing to transport guests who are staying over at Brakdakkies, the guest house he and his wife started a few years ago. "It's too difficult to advertise trips because I'm not always available and the weather here is quite extreme, in summer the sun will fry you on the bike and in winter you will freeze, but now and then, like today the weather is perfect."

He explains that he and his wife were both teachers in Cape Town but had a dream of living in the Karoo. "One day we just decided that it would stay a dream if we don't move - so we packed up and here we are." Apart from running the guest house Lance is also a well trained and able handyman and his business vehicle a three wheeled scooter from China, called Luigi.

As he drives around town he stops ever so often, sometimes in the middle of the road, pointing out landmarks and interesting buildings; "This was our first house..., that was the original post office ..., this chap made his yard bigger and now only half the road is left..., this used to be the old abattoir which was called Skapieseinde (Sheep's end)..."

And so the informative drive continues for almost an hour before he stops in front of the hotel, declines an offer to share a beer because "there is still much to do" and leaves, only to be seen along the main street again some time later, this time with two tourists - one in the side car and one on the passenger seat.

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