

Dear Sponsors,

Long time since I wrote something personally to you but I have been in South Africa again for almost 3 months!!! This year was in every point of view better then last year!

- There was more swell then last year!
- I had increadeble sessions with amazing people!
- I have some really sick photos of even sicker days!!!
- and the video footage is also really nice!

A trip like this one, only wants me to go travel as soon as possible again! Longer, better and harder!!

I'll take you trough my journey and tell you about the greatest days of my trip!

I left freezing Belgium the first of december. We had a delay of 12 hours in London but the moment I stepped out of Capetown airport all my sorrows were gone! We had a nice braai at a friends place and went to bed!



The first really good day was **december 5**

Small waves in Sunset but the wind was already hammering! So we drove of to Melkbos were my 3.7 should have been perfect but I took my 4.2 to do some flying. I sailed for about 2h30 untill I was literally blown of the water by windgusts up to 50 knots...

*Overviewing Melkbos*

2 days later **december 7** I scored an epic session at Cape Point



I saw Sunset in the morning, it was flat so I immediately decided to drive to Cape Point! When we arrived there everybody was waiting for the tide to drop but I couldn't wait any longer. I rigged my 4.7 and went out all alone! I caught some big waves and got caught as well. The nicest spot of the world was working and it was all mine !!!

*Low wind airing Platboom*

The next day Sunset was on fire!!! Really nice waves not to big were breaking on the sandbanks of Sunset's first parking! Here you can see me doing an aerial just before the wave closes out.



And all of this with a nice view of Capetown in the background...

After this amazing beginning of my trip we had a lot of days with really strong wind in Melkbos and a few days in Big Bay. Not so much spectacular stuff but in the mean while I started practicing backloops and goiters...

The next really good day was **the last day of 2008** again at Cape Point! Just like I started windsurfing last year the 4<sup>th</sup> of January at Cape Point I finished surfing this year at the same spot in comparable conditions!! I sailed for almost 5 hours in side off 25 knots wind and 2-3 meter waves!!



I tried a lot of moves that day and I almost stuck the goiter you're seeing on this picture! We went back home around 7pm, had a really nice braai at Jesse's place and went to our favourite bar "Cubañas" to celebrate this day (or was it the new year?) !!!

*goiter @ Platboom*

### **5-10 January:** Big Bay Classic

The most important competition in South Africa this summer for slalom and wave. Normally I was going to compete in both disciplines but it was almost impossible to get all of my slalom gear in Capetown...



We had to wait till the 9<sup>th</sup> for some decent wind and it wasn't even south easter... It was north wester (wind from the right) and the only spot working with that wind is Witsands. So the skippers meeting was there at 9 o'clock. The wind was really gusty and we had to wait for 2 more hours to start the competition. I was in heat 8 against Klaas Voget (n° 5 of the world) and a danish guy. I sailed an almost perfect heat: on my first wave I did 3 nice turns and went back out. On my second wave I did 2 really nice turns and ended with the aerial you see

here above... From that point in the heat my 2<sup>nd</sup> place was safe so I went for some big moves but chrashed most of them! They did 3 more heats that day and then the wind dropped again...



Saturday we had to finish the single elimination in Big Bay with the normal south east wind! In my quarter final I had to go head to head with Klaas, an almost impossible task. I sailed the best heat of my life with a nice table top, 2 big forwards, and 4 decent waverides but it wasn't enough... So I finished 9<sup>th</sup> in my first international wave event!!!



I watched the rest of the competition from the beach and saw Phill Horrocks beat Klaas in the final after an amazing show!!! As the final was over I went back out and sailed untill after sunset!! One of the best Big Bay sessions so far!!! Liz from capesessions.com shot some amazing pictures which will most likely be in the next Swell magazine!!

### **14 January:** Classic SA day!!!



The day started around 10 o'clock at Sunset with 4.7! 1-2 meter waves and 15-20 knots of low wind made Sunset epic untill 12 o'clock. It was truly wave riders paradise!!! After 2 hours of Sunset we went for a quick bite and drove on to Big Bay where the wind was a little less strong and the waves a lot cleaner! We sailed there untill half an hour after sunset because you just can't leave days like this not surfed to the max...



**18 january:** film and foto day!!!!

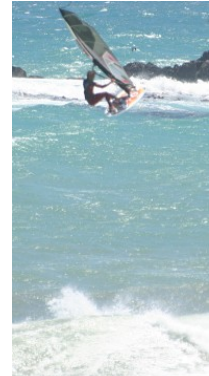
We made some nice pictures and video footage today!



*table top*



*slashy turn*



*BIG stalled forward*

**28 january:** Milnerton?!?



Mast-high-close-out waves breaking in Sunset and low wind... As I took my 4.7 out of my car Wout called me and said: "Milnerton is going off!!!!" I immediately took my gear and drove down there and indeed, waves were rolling down the sandbanks of Milnerton and only 5 man out! We sailed there for almost 3 hours: for me the best wave ride conditions of the entire trip !!!

*one footed aerial*



*Milnerton can also be surfers paradise if you're there with the right swell and the right tide...*

**4 february:** photoshoot day



Swell booked Liz ([capesessions.com](http://capesessions.com)) for the entire day! We started the day on Sunset with 4.7, sailed there for about 2 hours! Then we moved to Big Bay were I had a low wind session for an hour. Then we had lunchbreak and we finished the day in Big Bay again with 3.7 fully overpowered!!! An amazing day with



some really nice pictures which will be shown, as my other best pics, in the next Swell!



## 5 februari

Wout and I decided to drive to Cape Point. Best decision of the trip, the waves were 2-3 meter and the wind was blowing perfectly for 4.2 in the beginning. There was one peak right in front of the rock where the bigger sets broke every time the same! A perfect lip to smack while waveriding or hit while jumping! We sailed there for 2 hours all by ourselves until Sofie joined us!



*Hitting the lip*



The last month I've tried to film as much as possible but that wasn't always easy... I still managed to collect a lot of good video footage and putted it into a small movie!

You can see it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utoqcz4Lq1k>

or on following sites: [www.bel101.be](http://www.bel101.be), [www.u-ride.net](http://www.u-ride.net), [www.windsurfjournal.com](http://www.windsurfjournal.com), [www.swell.be](http://www.swell.be), [www.surfforum.be](http://www.surfforum.be), [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), ...

I hope you enjoyed reading my report!

My next stop is the Belgian Championship Speed in Gruissan (France) so I'll get back to you afterwards!!!

Thanks to: Axl & Trax:



F 2:



Naish



Frontloop



Reptile



O'Neill



for making this life possible for me!!

Greetz

Nick De Wannemaeker

[www.bel101.be](http://www.bel101.be)