

## PINELANDER WALKS THE WALK FOR ANDREW MERRYWEATHER



**Standing behind Andrew Merryweather, from left: Ian and Pat MacDonald, with Barbara Maragele, Cape Times reporter at the finish of the Big Walk, where Ian raised R11,286 towards Andrew's re-walk suit.**

Andrew Merryweather has been confined to a wheelchair for the last three years and suffered a condition known as hyper-reflexia over the festive season, which resulted in severe migraines that had to be treated at Vincent Pallotti hospital. The condition resulted from his extended time spent in a wheelchair, so friends and family are working hard to raise funds for the purchase of a 're-walk' suit for Andrew, to allow him to stand upright. Once Andrew's fiancé has completed her studies they plan to marry and it would be wonderful for Andrew to be able to stand upright at his wedding. To this end Pinelander Ian McDonald gained sponsorship for the Cape Times Big Walk in his ongoing efforts to help Andrew realise his dream. Ian completed the 25 km distance in 3 hours 51 minutes and 27 seconds, and came second overall in the 70 age group, raising a total of R11 286.00. *For further information or the opportunity to assist in this project call Ian or Pat at 021 531 8261 or 084 300 6388.*

## THE RIDE - KWAZULU TO CAPE TOWN

On 14 January 2012, Barry Armitage and Joe Dawson rode into Cape Town, like two adventurous cowboys coming in from the wilderness, having covered 2,000 km, much of it on rough terrain, since leaving KwaZulu Natal ten weeks earlier with their horses – Jack, Pat, Cola and Cherokee. Buoyed up by the generosity, friendliness and hospitality of ordinary South Africans throughout their epic journey, they overcame countless challenges (swollen rivers, dangerous paths and rough terrain). Along the way, they raised funds for the Cart Horse Protection Association in Epping, the Highveld Horse Care Unit and the Coastal Horse Care Unit. Numerous riders and carthorses escorted them and their back-up crew through Pinelands to the Oude Molen Stables run by Kendre Allies. Here, they were welcomed in true Cape style by a large crowd of supporters, whom they had clearly inspired with their spirit of adventure. *see <http://namibians.wordpress.com>. Text and Photographs by Reggie Lord.*



**Kendre Allies leading Barry and Joe to the Oude Molen Stables.**

**ABOVE RIGHT: Joe Dawson and Barry Armitage turn into Forest Drive, Pinelands**

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