If you like pachypodiums, you really couldn’t ask for a toilet with a better view.

Flashback: just a few months earlier I had contacted Alex Fick with a problem. Alex was President and rogue-in-residence of the Succulent Society of South Africa and one of the principals in Gariep Travel, a company dedicated to fulfilling the southern African field fantasies of normally couch-bound succulentists. I had just spent nearly two years working on a Madagascar trip for the CSSA Field Trips Program, when a presidential election resulted in two self-declared winners whose supporters were shooting at each other. In desperation, I contacted Alex with a request (maybe more of a plea) to organize a replacement trip to Namibia and the Richtersveld of South Africa. Flash forward: it is now sunrise on May 18, 2002, and the members of CSSA “deTour 2002” are camping on the Kunene River—which forms part of the border between Namibia and Angola to the north—somewhere just west of Ruacana Falls on the track to Swartbooisdrif. It was our first night of bush camping, meaning you bring (or create) your own “facilities”.

Our tour operators provided, er, … basic facilities.

1 The attractive white, frilly flowers of *Pachypodium lealii* are produced in the dry winter months, with peak flowering in August and September in habitat. Outjo, September 1998.