



ISANDLWANA
LODGE
Newsletter



June 2011

THINGS JUST HAPPEN IN AFRICA

And things just happen at Isandlwana, too. Many of you know Dalton Ngobese, our barman and cultural guide, but, I'll bet none of you knows that one of his many talents is writing. On his own, Dalton wrote a story about an actual happening here in the village and we wanted to share it with you.

On the 22nd of January 2011, there were celebrations on the Battlefield of Isandlwana. Early that morning preparations were made for the arrival of the Head of State of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma and his guest, Ugandan President Museveni. Activities of the day included: Re-enactment of the Battle by the local Zulu Warriors and local Whites from Dundee known as the Dundee Diehards. The Zulu King was present, Dr. MG Buthelezi, Dr. Z. Mkhize, Premier of KZN, and many others, including media from around the world, were there.

The day was very hot and as closing drew nearer, people had already started to leave. There were some signs showing it could rain, but not too soon. So, things happened early in the morning the next day, i.e., the 23rd of January. There was a big thunderstorm accompanied by lightning. The big white tents were still on the battlefield from the commemoration the day before. In the village of Isandlwana and its surroundings, there was a lot of damage to the property, animals, bridges, houses, trees, etc.. On Sundays, I am always busy. I am taking tour groups to the Battlefield of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. On that particular Sunday, I took a busload of about 42 people to

the battlefields.

On my way to the Isandlwana Visitors' Centre from my house, esiGubudu, I drove past Mathe's Homestead which unfortunately got struck by lightning that morning. When my guests arrived I took them past the homestead in flames and explained to them what had happened. Fortunately nobody got injured except the poor cow hiding underneath. It got struck as well.

The tour company which sent the group out here is called Riviera from the UK. The guests were so touched by this that it made them think to do something by helping with re-building the house.

So, on the 1st of February 2011, there came another group and its leader or manager, being Lorna Lesch. The lodge manager informed me about the GOOD NEWS. We were to go to the family, and come back quickly. When I am doing my lectures, I always carry a knobkerrie like everybody else. As we were going to the family, I thought to take my Iwisa/Knobkerrie with me and something told me there is no need. Off we went. The lodge manager and the lady called Lorna Lesch. We approached the family homestead and as tradition, I had to shout "Ekhaya" meaning "we're home." I did that repeatedly until we got attended. The guests had raised R2,570.00 for the family. We've got the money with us. The Lodge manager was to hand it over to Mr. Mathe (head of the homestead). We saw Mr. and



Mr. and Mrs. Mathe with Riviera Guide Lorna Lesch and Dalton Ngobese.

Mrs. Mathe coming out of the house (not the one that burned). Their aggressive dogs were busy barking and surrounding us. Mathe's family were surprised as to Who? Why? What for? I was busy protecting the lady, Lorna, but unfortunately, the bloody dog managed to jump onto her left leg just below the knee and bit her. It was a big wound. We had to comfort her and yet at the same time we had to explain to the family the purpose of our visit. The money was given to Mr. Mathe and thereafter photos were taken. We rushed back to the guests to start the tour and the manager took the victim, Lorna to the Lodge for some treatment. He then brought her to the Battlefield of Isandlwana.

The Mathe Family will never forget that day. Mathe said, "Thank you very much. I was just thinking about how I can get my house fixed this morning." Editor's Note: This is just one of the many things guests of Isandlwana Lodge do from time to time to help the deserving people of this village.

THE SPECTATOR PUBLISHES STORY ON THE ZULU BATTLEFIELDS

Bangor, Northern Ireland

Marion and Stanley Smith visited Isandlwana Lodge a few months ago and Marion kindly wrote about it an article published by their hometown paper, THE SPECTATOR. Here is a little information on this remarkable couple and their report on the experience.

Stanley is a retired senior civil servant who was employed in the Department of Education. He is a Rotarian and is still involved with a number of schools, serving on their Board of Governors.

Marion also has an interest in education and works in that area of interest as well as health and disability within the council of their hometown, Bangor, which is in the premier maritime Borough of Northern Ireland called North Down. Marion has served as Mayor of their town and has fought and won four elections.

No wonder these folks were able to get an article printed in The SPECTATOR which they sent to us. We are sorry space does not allow us to publish the entire article in this newsletter, but some of the excerpts are:

Many are aware of the heroics of Rorke's Drift when 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded to British soldiers as some 130 men withstood an attack from 4,000 Zulu warriors.

Not everyone may be aware that the day before Rorke's Drift the British Army suffered one of its heaviest colonial defeats at the battle of Isandlwana just 10 miles away. "We stayed at Isandlwana Lodge. This is an amazing establishment where the accommodation and food are first class. Equally important, all the staff were helpful and friendly. The Lodge is dramatically carved into the side of the hill overlooking the whole Isandlwana battlefield with the uniquely shaped and somewhat eerie Isandlwana Mountain where the slaughter of the British troops took place.

One advantage of staying at Isandlwana Lodge is that it offers a panoramic view of the whole battlefield. You can sit on the veranda and with an excellent guide like Rob Gerrard envisage exactly how the events unfolded – very much as the Zulu chief must have done some 130 years ago.

As I listened to Rob, his voice changed pitch and tone, his description brought to me, scenes of horror; the smell of blood, the sound, zee, zee, zee which the Zulu Warriors made going into battle sounding like millions of bees then finally into their deep-throated war cry along with the traditional foot stamping. When Rob had finished, we sat in total silence. It was a cool day with the wind blowing around the battlefield – I sat in tears. I had no words.

It all proved to be an unforgettable and surprisingly emotional few days. Our guide, Rob, brought home to us the truly historic nature of the horrific events which took place all those years ago. I think deep down it confirmed to me how futile battle can be when men are little more than cannon fodder – have we really changed? But also, and much more powerfully, the bravery of soldier to brother soldier in battles such as Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift and the many battles before and after.

Editor's note: Forgive us for including the Smith's complimentary comments about the Lodge and our location. We thought the entire article was very well done and, of course, especially appreciated their kind remarks about their stay here.

ROB GERRARD WILL LECTURE IN THE UK - JULY 2011

Should you wish to attend one of Rob's talks while he is on tour in the UK in July 2011, please contact him on rob@isandlwana.co.za for information.



Edupeg learners at work

EDUCATION THROUGH ACTION

Through Isandlwana Lodge founder, Maggie Bryant's interest in education, The Wild Foundation brought Edupeg to Isandlwana schools to work in the area of numeracy and literacy with both learners and teachers.

There are six primary schools in the rural Isandlwana district receiving support from Edupeg. Their trainers have built positive relationships with the principals and educators at these schools and they are warmly received at the schools they visit.

During support visits, the trainers work with teachers, assisting them in their classrooms to enhance their teaching skills and encouraging them to try new teaching methods that will actively involve pupils in the learning process. The uptake of knowledge is often dependent on the skills level and capacity of the teacher involved and his / her own confidence and level of self-esteem. The hope is that the educators can continue the practice in the absence of the Edupeg trainers. The children are thrilled to engage with the bright, colourful and attractive resource materials provided by the sponsors. The graphics, pictures, rubrics and graphical representations in the workbooks enhance the understanding of concepts by the children, and the flexible programme can be utilized to cover multiple concepts.

Anyone interested in learning more about Edupeg may do so by visiting their website: www.edupeg.co.za



SOUP KITCHEN NOW OPEN AT ISANDLWANA

Many of our guests are interested in the well-being of the people of the village of Isandlwana and we thought you would like to know the Nquthu Development Centre, a partially funded government initiative, has opened a soup kitchen here for children who have been orphaned by Aids.

It is not a project the Lodge is involved in because our community work is done through The Wild Foundation, a US based NGO. However, we are glad the soup kitchen has been opened and that it is servicing some of the more disadvantaged among us.

ANDRE BROERSE IS BACK HOME

Andre Broerse was the manager here from April of 2008 until June of 2010 and we are happy to announce he has returned to pickup his post after a stint in Nigeria running a large hotel in the city of Calabar.



André Broerse

Andre's home is South Africa and his roots are so deeply entrenched here that even Nigeria couldn't entice him into staying long term. We are glad he has come back to his Isandlwana home and look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead. Andre's personality makes him a favourite with guests and staff alike. He is eager to please and goes out of his way to accommodate guests or help in any way he can.

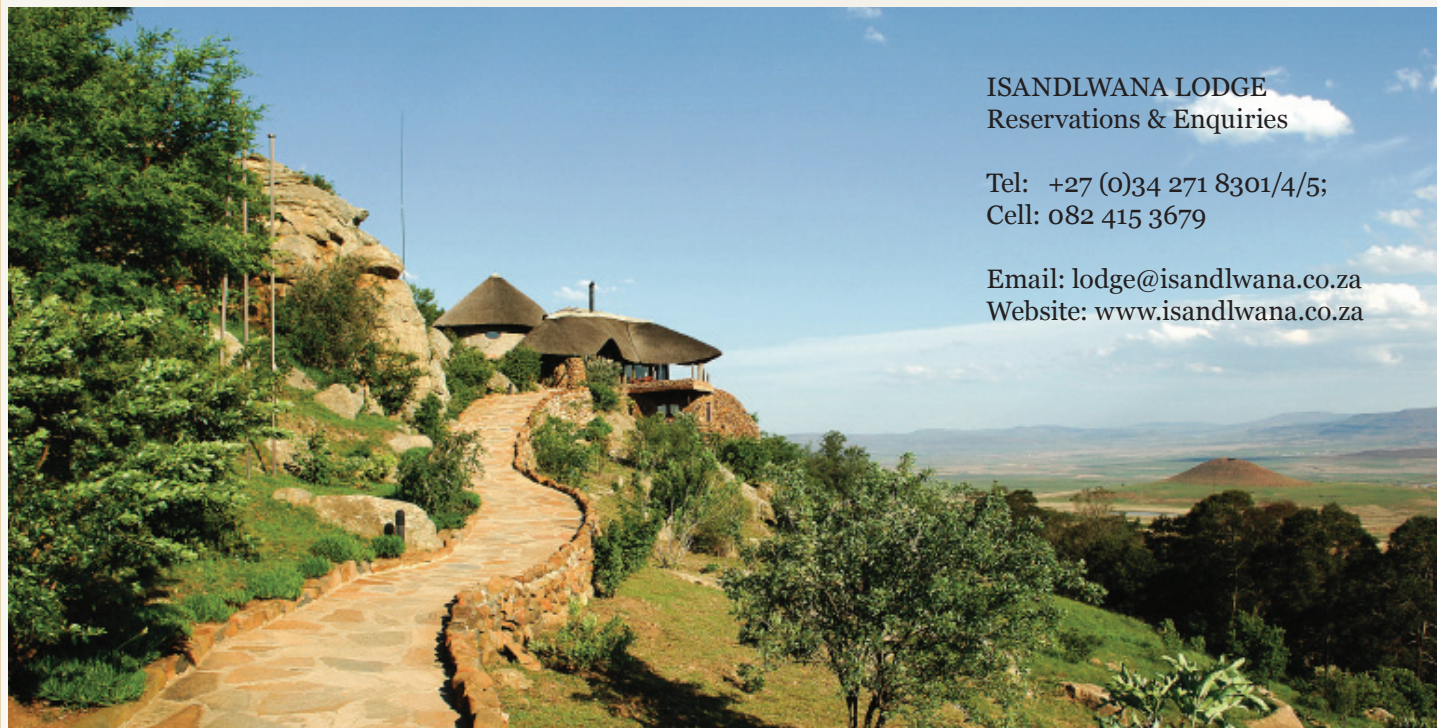
WITH THANKS FROM ALL...

We continue to appreciate the kindness of many guests who recommend us to their friends and family members. We will always strive to merit your confidence by doing our utmost to ensure that all our guests have a wonderful experience in this fascinating and stimulating area of KwaZulu Natal.

If you are thinking of coming our way, contact your travel consultant or the lodge for special rates on offer for various periods during 2011.



GALLERY



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Reservations & Enquiries

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