




ISANDLWANA
LODGE
Newsletter



September 2010

GREETINGS FROM THE ISANDLWANA LODGE TEAM.

The eyes of the world were on South Africa during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Predictions are that the successful cup, the friendliness of the people and the beauty and diversity of South Africa will bring a lot more visitors to our shores in the next few years. We certainly hope that is true and if you have friends or acquaintances coming our way, we will be grateful for a recommendation as "The only place to stay in the battlefields." We didn't coin that phrase. It was said to us by a guest.

Please enjoy this edition of the Isandlwana Lodge Newsletter.



Dalton in front of the Victoria Cross Display at Brecon Museum.



The Mayor of Brecon, Councillor David Meredith, presenting Dalton with a tie & map of Brecon.

DALTON NGOBESE VISITS UK

A dream came true on a recent visit to Wales for Lindizwe (Dalton) Ngobese, who is the great-great grandson of Inkosi (Chief) Sihayo - a major player in the Anglo Zulu War of 1879 whose iNgobamakhosi Regiment formed part of the left horn of the Zulu Army that triumphed at Isandlwana on the 22nd of January 1879. Dalton is a cultural guide at Isandlwana Lodge and he's always dreamed of going to the South Wales Borderer's Museum (now called the Royal Welsh Museum) in Brecon. Thanks to the generosity of Sally and John Bradley (former lodge guests) his air ticket and a visa for the trip of a lifetime in June was arranged and before he could blink Dalton was on a plane headed for the UK.

While in Brecon, Dalton was hosted by Bill Cainan and Martin Everett, Curator of the Brecon Museum. The highlight of the visit for Dalton was the parade salute on Armed Forces Day held in Cardiff this year which was taken by none other than HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. The Prince also opened the re-furbished military museum in Cardiff Castle - "Firing Line." The Museum records all aspects relating to the Welsh soldier, including the involvement of the 24th Regiment in the Anglo Zulu War. So, staged to be a visual highlight for the Prince, Bill was dressed as a Corporal of the 24th and Dalton as a warrior of the iNgobamakhosi Regiment. Upon being introduced to Dalton, the Prince spoke to him about his great respect for the Zulu people and his hope to attend upcoming Zulu gatherings in the near future.

Some other highlights on the trip



Prince Charles shaking hands with Dalton who was dressed as a warrior of the iNgobamakhosi Regiment.

included Martin Everett introducing Dalton to the Mayor of Brecon, Councillor David Meredith, who then presented Dalton with a tie and a map of Brecon. Dalton also had the pleasure of holding the real Victoria Cross, which had been presented posthumously to Lt. Melvill who lost his life trying to save the Queen's colour, now housed in the Brecon Museum.

All too soon, the five days had come to an end and Dalton returned home inspired with a wealth of memories (and T-shirts)! The visit undoubtedly gave him a greater insight into the British background to the Anglo-Zulu War, which will no doubt be reflected in his battlefield talks. Among the many treasured memorabilia Dalton returned to his home in Zululand with, was a copy of the original last message to Lord Chelmsford (signed by Pulleine). Dalton concluded that, "It was an unforgettable experience and I loved learning even more on the Anglo Zulu War. The highlight of my trip was meeting HRH Prince Charles at Cardiff Castle. I am very grateful for the opportunity and all that was done for me."

ISANDLWANA LODGE HONOURS MADIBA

Seven of Isandlwana Lodge's dedicated staff members gave of their time to a community project on the 18th of July in honour of former President Nelson Mandela's birthday. Their involvement was an answer to an appeal that every South African citizen donate 67 minutes of their day, one for each of the sixty seven years Mr. Mandela spent in public service, to a worthwhile endeavor in their community. The Lodge staff didn't stop there. They donated a total of 167 minutes each working at a Safe Park in the nearby local village of Isandlwana in KwaZulu Natal.

The Safe Park was funded by US President Barack Obama's Presidential Emergency Project for the Relief of HIV/Aids (PEPFAR) and is operated by Isibindi – a South African government funded group who builds the parks and teaches workers how to run them.

The Isandlwana Lodge staff contributed their time, energy and resources by building steps leading into one of the Safe Park's buildings so smaller children could enter it more easily. The staff also cleaned the grounds and repaired a swing, replaced broken windows in two of the buildings, and at a later date, will connect two water reservoirs to the pipe running along the roof of one of the structures.

Neighborhood children gathered to enjoy some fun on the playground equipment and after all the staff's



Isandlwana Lodge & Safe Park staff taking a well deserved break after a hard day's work for the 67 minutes campaign

work was done for the day, they distributed chocolate chip muffins and juice much to the delight of the children.

Aside from the enthusiasm and commitment of all the staff who gave back to the local community by volunteering in the Safe Park, another tribute to Mr. Mandela was made by a group of young men in the village who volunteered to work on a neighbour's house that was in bad need of repair. The team was headed by Lalelani Mazibuko, the maintenance supervisor at Isandlwana Lodge, who also participated in the project at the Safe Park.

Beauty Ngwenya, reservations supervisor at the lodge, commented after her involvement in the Safe Park project, "We were only too happy to work towards fulfilling Madiba's dream of helping every child and we'll be mindful of other ways we can help our local community on an on-going basis."

HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION

Guests of Isandlwana Lodge from the UK, Australia and South Africa helped us celebrate Heritage Day at the Lodge on the 24th of September 2010 by enjoying a typical South African barbecue known as a braai.

The idea was sparked by Bishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Peace Laureate, when he said, "We experienced an incredible spirit in the month of the World Cup when all that mattered was we were members of this extraordinary Rainbow Nation." He challenged us to throw some meat

or vegetables on the coals to celebrate the country's heritage and we did just that by feasting on lamb, boerwors sausage, and chicken along with pap, which is maize meal cooked to a thick consistency and topped with a tomato sauce and other typical South African dishes.

WILD FOUNDATION AWARDED 4 STAR RATING BY CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Congratulations to The Wild Foundation on being awarded a 4-star Rating with Charity Navigator.

Most of you know that The Wild Foundation, through Lodge co-founder Maggie Bryant's involvement with them, has been working in the village of Isandlwana since soon after the Lodge became a reality. We are grateful for their support and cooperation in seeing that donations made by guests of Isandlwana Lodge are used in accordance with the wishes of donors.

The fact that Wild outperforms most other charities in the US is fantastic. The designation is exceptional and well deserved.

Speaking of donors...

It is a bit risky to start mentioning names of donors, but a few who come to mind recently are:

Dundee Association of University Women – UK has given a second generous donation to be used for additional equipment for the computer laboratory for which they had also donated funds to purchase computers.

Audrey and Barrie Beynon have given money to support an orphaned child with school fees and clothes.

The Anthony White Family 'adopted' two children – one who is sister to the Beynon's student and a boy from another family.

Tony and Heather Gates are bringing money for a bursary for a deserving student when they visit the lodge in October of this year. They continue fund-raising efforts on behalf of the children of Isandlwana and continue sponsorship of two students.

We are grateful to all who have contributed needed funds for various projects in the village.



LODGE STAFF HIGHLIGHT

We are pleased to highlight Nicole Kaše, Assistant Manager of the Lodge, in this newsletter. She holds three Advanced Hotel Diplomas from City and Guild and had experience managing a Bed and Breakfast establishment before joining the lodge. Nicole has already made a difference in several areas of lodge operations. She is extremely efficient and is helping all of us do our

jobs better. Nicole is an enthusiastic runner, loves sports, the out of doors, and her pet parrot named J. D.

Our former manager, Andre Broerse left us at the end of July to manage a 100 room hotel in Calabar, Nigeria. It is a challenging position and we wish him much success.



Nicole Kaše

ISANDLWANA'S POET LAUREATE

Jack and Teresa Hogg, former UK guests at the lodge, have been in touch lately and Jack kindly forwarded us a copy of the poem he wrote after their visit. With his permission, we have chosen to share it with you.

ISANDLWANA BY JACK HOGG

Rise at dawn with the crowing of the cock
And the plaintive lowing of herdsmen's stock.
Across the valley sun spreads through the hills,
To Isandlwana Mountain as a new day spills.

Hear laughter from children ambling to school.
Down clay foot-worn paths in the morning's cool.
Swallows dip and wheel in a sky of gold.
Hills below have a story to be told.

White cairns catch the sun on the mountain's side,
A bronze lion claw necklace lies in pride.
Violence shook the peace on this plain times past,
Martini met assegai; dies were cast.

Red Coats of a Queen met warriors of a King,
Whose buffalo horns formed their deadly ring,
Pride of an empire, slaughtered when the horde,
Outwitted and defeated England's Lord.

Violent enemies in time turn friends,
Born of respect, love over hate transcends,
Rights and wrongs of ambitious passions expire,
Few governing many from the rear retire.

Souls and spirits of the glorious dead,
On the mountain sides at the valley's head,
White cairns and bronze necklace all that remain,
For Redcoat and Zulu where each was slain.

In the evening when the day has gone by
And the sun is sinking in a blood red sky,
Peace and quiet pervade the tranquil scene,
Battlegrounds in memoriam serene.

IN MEMORIAM:

Petros Sibisi, Rorke's Drift
3 August 2010

We are saddened over the untimely death of Petros Sibisi, an outstanding young Zulu. May he rest in peace.



ISANDLWANA LODGE
Reservations & Enquiries

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