



**LODGE VISITORS RAISE FUNDS FOR ISANDLWANA AIDS
ORPHANS**



Two boys using a wheelbarrow to carry the food

In 2007, Isandlwana Lodge in the KwaZulu-Natal Battlefields was visited by Ian and Margaret Duncan and Richard and Aillison Hilken, from the United Kingdom. The couples fell in love with the people from the local community and were inspired to do something to help.

They donated money to pay for school fees and uniforms for a child, but once back in the United Kingdom a formal ball was arranged with all proceeds going towards starting a food program for over 95 AIDS orphans in the village. Gifts of local crafts were sent from the village to be given away at the ball, but these were auctioned off instead; thereby contributing to the R140,000.00 raised.

During May 2008, the first of the food parcel deliveries were made to the families caring for the orphans. The family members gathered in great numbers to help with the carrying of the food and to thank the organisers. It was a heart-warming sight with many of the people saying, "Ngiyabonga" over and over again – "Thank you".

The project is administered by The Wild Foundation, a United States based NGO, which has contributed greatly to the upliftment of the villagers through sponsoring community gardens, chicken farming, craft making, and working with the schools through the Edu-Peg program. A co-ordinator in the village follows through on all the contributions given by Isandlwana Lodge guests and takes charge of projects such as the Food Parcel Program.

For further information on this project or any other work going on in the community, please call +27 34 271 8301/4/5 or email pat@isandlwana.co.za.

Notes to the editor:

Isandlwana Lodge

Isandlwana Lodge offers twelve luxury rooms all en-suite and tastefully decorated in a mixture of traditional and modern styles. The Lodge is carved into the iNyoni rock formation on top of which the Zulu commander stood during the battle of Isandlwana on 22 January 1879. Enjoy unparalleled views from the crisp early light of a sparkling Zulu dawn to the splendour of the African sunset.

Rob Gerrard, resident historian, or one of his associates will make history come to life when they relate the stories of the Battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. Other activities include walks, photographic trips, birding tours and a Zulu Village Safari which takes guests to a typical homestead, the church, schools, or clinic, whatever their interest, and always includes a visit with a local Sangoma.

Unwind in our pool built among the rocks after a day on the battlefields and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the library where you can hone up on your history knowledge. Savour delectable food by our specialist chef to provide you with some of the best food in KwaZulu-Natal or just relax on your private balcony and enjoy a golden African sunset. All rooms face the historic and scenically beautiful Isandlwana plain with a view of the mountain.

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