



August 2008

AUGUST MESSAGE FROM PAT STUBBS

After a long absence of not communicating with you, we are making a renewed effort to write more often. It is always our desire to keep in close touch with guests who have favoured us with their presence and we hope you are still thinking of us now and then. We know many of you are who have recommended us to your friends and family and we are deeply grateful for that.

Isandlwana Lodge continues to gain exposure and enjoys a reputation for warm hospitality, good food, fine service, outstanding battlefield tours and authentic cultural experiences. We are a community based business and feel our presence here and the generosity of our guests is making a real difference to the local people. Aside from providing jobs for some 23 fulltime people and a number of part-time employees, our guests have adopted children in the village, given money for school fees and uniforms, bought sports equipment and clothes for school teams, furnished school supplies and now have started a fund to buy computers for one of the secondary schools. You'll read further along in this newsletter about two major efforts which are the free dental clinic and the Food Parcel program for Aids orphans.

We appreciate your support and enthusiasm for what we are about in this magical area of Zululand.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

LODGE VISITORS RAISE FUNDS FOR ISANDLWANA AIDS ORPHANS

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 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 them off instead; thereby contributing to the R140,000.00 raised.



During May 2008, the first of the food parcel deliveries was 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! Ngiyabonga! Thank you. Thank You" over and over again.

BALLOONING OVER THE BATTLEFIELDS



A group of UK balloonists, led by Dr Keith Peirce, along with his wife and a party of 14 friends thrilled the villagers of Isandlwana and guests of the Lodge by launching their balloons across from the battlefield during April this year. The group goes somewhere unusual in the world each year to fly in their balloons.

Our very own Rob Gerrard and Dalton Ngobese went up to see the Zululand plains from high in the sky.

We are happy to report that the balloons had no impact on the battlefield or plain and we applaud the team's efforts.

ROTA-DENT RETURNS TO ISANDLWANA

The second Rota-Dent dental team of four dentists and their assistants arrived in Isandlwana last September to conduct a free two-week clinic primarily for the children of Isandlwana. The clinics have been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Downtown Anchorage, their Alaska District Rotary and Rotary International in conjunction with Rotary Club of Dundee, South Africa.

Approximately 2,000 procedures were performed during the two week period. The team felt gratified that they had been able to bring first world care to the children in this third world area.

The Village of Isandlwana, the children and their elders, as well as the Mangwebuthanani Traditional Authority, were grateful for the assistance and hope to welcome the Rotarians back again.



SPECIALS & PACKAGES

FROM GUNS TO GALAXIES

Only at Isandlwana Lodge, in South Africa's Zululand Battlefields can you re-visit the site of the British Army's most famous Battle—Isandlwana. Resident historian, Rob Gerrard, FRGS and retired British Army Officer, briefs you after breakfast from the Lodge overlooking the famous and iconic Hill, after which you tour the sites of the Battle of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, where Rob's vivid and heartfelt exposition of every strategic and tactical aspect of the campaign touching the emotions at all levels.

Each evening, Astronomer Terry Leaver will share his passion with you for the sights and mysteries of the Universe above. Your questions on every aspect of the Cosmos, will be welcomed, and the views through the Telescopes, of important Heavenly objects, will leave you breathless. At 8:00 PM on the 16th of August there will be a partial eclipse of the moon and it is your last chance to see one this year!

Enjoy the best of both worlds on the weekend of 15th – 17th August 2008.

Price per person sharing for a two night stay is R2,700.00.

This includes accommodation, all meals, astronomy specialist talks, telescope star gazing and two battlefield talks.

STAFF NEWS

BATTLEFIELDS HISTORIAN EMBARKS ON UK LECTURE TOUR



Rob Gerrard, our resident historian, has just completed a very successful lecture tour in the UK, speaking to sold-out audiences throughout the country. Rob spoke at three charity events providing the catalyst for some very lucrative fund raising. This year heralded a special event at Chewton Glen Hotel (voted the best hotel in England 2008) which saw Rob combine forces with Lieutenant Colonel Ged Argyle a serving officer, and Anglo Zulu War enthusiast, and retired Capt Chris

Snapes a fellow enthusiast. They received rave reviews on their presentations and the stimulating question and answer period following the talk and lunch.

Former guests, Mark and Nicola Dumas of Hampshire, arranged a talk for Rob in their barn to benefit the prostate Cancer Research Centre at the University College of London. It was a delightful evening including a champagne reception and dinner, which raised in the region of £20,000 for this very worthwhile charity.

If you are interested in being put on the mailing list for future talks in the UK, or alternatively you think you might like Rob to support your charity next year, please let us know.

NEW LODGE MANAGER

We welcome André Broerse to the Isandlwana Lodge family.

Andre has been in the hospitality business since June 2003, having served as manager of the Boat-house in Ballito and the Wartburger Hof, both well-known KwaZulu-Natal establishments.



Do stay in touch with us and please don't hesitate to let us know if we can do anything for you. There seems to be a "fraternity" of former guests who have experienced the energy of this place and we are glad that our lodge family is growing steadily.

ISANDLWANA LODGE
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