

MOUNTAIN CALL

SPRING 2013



Dear Verlorenkloof owners and friends

On 25 September, our family celebrated 30 years on the farm. How well I remember the first week in Emfuleni cottage where we still live – the area around blackened by a recent fire, no water or electricity, our meagre belongings dropped off by neighbour Gerrie van der Merwe's trout delivery truck and Eric I unpacking with very little help from Henry aged 6 months. But I also have happy memories – Henry's first 'mamma' while watching us unpack, being together as a family all day – the life style that we had dreamed of, and the best – Sabien Magolego coming up the hill offering to come and help me, as she still does.

So much has changed in 30 years, our country and the farming environment are virtually unrecognisable. The dreams have endured, and changed. The dairy farm is smaller now and is run on sustainable farming methods. Verlorenkloof has happened, opening up opportunities, creating jobs and a sustainable future for so many local families, and a much loved home from home for many others.

RECENT NEWS:

For the first time this year in August, Verlorenkloof hosted a **holiday program** during the private school holidays. The turnout was exceptional and the kids enjoyed activities such as "klei-lat", which entails launching clay missiles at each other from the end of whip-like sticks. In the September holidays we had another group of youngsters who proved to be a really competitive bunch, benignly watched by parents sipping coffee on the lodge veranda.

We are proud to announce that the **Foodspace online Shopping Cart** is now up and running. No need to battle the queues at Woolies, just bring your drinks and order your **Croft Food** to be ready for you at arrival, by going to www.verlorenkloof.co.za. Salads, home-baked pies, roast chickens, artisanal breads and decadent desserts and much more are for the taking.

A **Fly Fishing Development Program** was initiated last year by the Gauteng North Fly Fishing Association to train young marshals to assist at the SA Junior Nationals held at Verlorenkloof in September 2012. This wonderful program, led by owner Stuart Smith and financially supported and assisted by younger members of the GNFFA, continues to grow interest amongst the senior learners at Klipspruit School and was held over four weekends at Verlorenkloof this year. The young anglers have been introduced to still water techniques and gained valuable knowledge about the river. Hereunder is an unedited extract from a report written by Johannes Letswalo, younger brother of Verlorenkloof fishing bailiff, Karel:

'I caught nine fish! I learned something important about some flies and insects that we use to catch fish. When I caught nine fish I was very happy because I was with my brother. We had a break to rest and eat and when we started again, I caught three. Mr Stuart showed us how to catch fish so now I will be a fisherman forever'.

Verlorenkloof and a group of individual owners support the **Kwena Basin Education Trust**. Thanks to a generous donor, the past few months saw Kirstin Legg, KBET co-ordinator and Eric overseeing the conversion of the old school tuckshop at Klipspruit School into a media centre. Klipspruit was where our children attended primary school and this is the second time we are involved in building and fund raising for that specific building! Further donations included four desktop computers and some beautiful sets of books. With Christmas around the corner, rather than cluttering your loved ones' homes, sponsor a dictionary, scientific calculator or an educational toy for use at one of the three

Kwena Basin schools. Please contact kirstin@verlorenkloof.co.za for more information. Remember that no donation is too small!

We look forward to seeing you again before the end of the year, and please be sure to join us for a welcome drink and snack when you check in on Friday afternoons.

Fond regards,

Eric, Heidi and the Verlorenkloof Team

SAVE THE DATE:

Big Birding Day - Saturday 23 November 2013

Botany Weekend – Saturday and Sunday February 2014