

MOUNTAIN CALL – No 2 of 2011

WINTER@VERLORENKLOOF

Dear Verlorenkloof Owners and Friends

Winter finally came late in May, with the first frost and fires appearing simultaneously early in June. So far, so good - in spite of some nerve wrecking winds and one runaway fire coming from the neighbours at the top, we have been fine. Now we enjoy the crisp clear days, having some serious hot chocolate at the lodge and after dark, cuddling up next to the fireplace with special company whether they be people or books!

AGM

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Shareblock was held on Thursday 9 June at the Johannesburg Country Club in Woodmead. The meeting was attended by more than 40 owners in spite of a sudden cold and rainy spell. Verlorenkloof's AGM must be the only meeting of its kind where the kuier afterwards last longer than the meeting, followed by thank you notes for a fun evening! Thank you to all our supportive owners - you are at the heart of this very special place. The minutes will be available on the website after the next board meeting and I will remind you again in the next newsletter.

FISHING DAY

The Verlorenkloof river fishing day held on Saturday 15th May 2011 was a special occasion. The 32 anglers managed to catch and release 146 fish on the day, of which we estimate that 80 were wild fish. Especially exciting to catch were 30 or so year-old wild trout and three wily old wild brood fish in excess of 1kg. We were also treated to an eye-opening survey by Stephen van Staden of the aquatic life in the river, serving to remind us what a precious resource the Verlorenkloof river is. One highlight was Bruce Webber pulling out a 1,2 kg beauty and Daniel Factor very informative demonstration. Faith's lovely brunch preceded the demonstrations and the day was ended with a fun prize giving and stunning cocktails at the lodge.

At the fishing day, we (easily!) persuaded Daniel Factor to visit Verlorenkloof twice a month to offer professional fishing and fly tying tuition. Daniel has now been here three times and this past weekend James Elstob came up with a 3.5 kg beauty in South Dam. In 28 years I have never seen a fish like that! James is the fiance of Linda Butler's daughter (Croft 14) and I think with this catch he may just have sorted out the lobola! And, also last weekend, Gerhard Brown and Sarel van Zyl also got lucky at Windy Dell - well done guys!

About Daniel: Daniel's passion for water, aquatic insects, fish and their feeding habits and fly tying goes back as far he can remember. A highly regarded competitive provincial flyfisherman, he is preparing to represent South Africa in the Oceania World Championships in Australia later this year, hence the moonlighting jobs! His best times are spent traveling around the country in search for anything that swims and will eat a fly. Daniel started fishing at Verlorenkloof for the first time in 2008 and fell in love with our well maintained river with perfect holding water in every run, where you can almost guarantee a fish is waiting for you. Since then he regards the Crocodile at Verlorenkloof as his personal fly fisherman's paradise and still gets excited every time he sees a fish make a meal out of his fly!

SAVE THE DATE:

On Tuesday 20 September we have Prof Tim Maggs giving a talk on the Archaeology of Verlorenkloof at the Origin Centre at Wits University. Full details to follow by mid August. We look forward to seeing you there!

Warm regards
Eric, Heidi and the Verlorenkloof team