

MOUNTAIN CALL WINTER 2013



Dear Verlorenkloof owners and friends

Right in the middle of a wonderful summery holiday season, winter suddenly arrived early in July. In the Lodge the two fires are lit early morning. Blankets and woollens came out and the Foodspace team have just treated us to delicious pannekoek. I just love winter at Verlorenkloof!

We are still hosting our fun-filled **holiday program** for the little ones - the number of young guests differ every week but I think we hit a new all time high last week when over 30 kiddies and as many young parents arrived to take part in the Monday treasure hunt! The noise level was a joy to behold. All the other activities like hikes to the waterfall, kleilat, horse riding, calf feeding and newly introduced cup cake decorating turned into a real feast. Moms and Dads can come keep warm next to the roaring fires in the Lodge while enjoying a coffee and decadent slice of cake. Be sure to ask for the program when you arrive for your stay – it's not to be missed. We also invite parents who visit in the private school holidays to let us know if you have young ones who may enjoy the program as we are considering extending it into these holidays.

Foodspace has stocked up on trout, preserves and jams and is baking up a storm to keep our guests well-fed. A new age began on Fathers' Day when we hosted an American Pizza brunch. These thin base pizzas were such a hit that Wednesdays have since become pizza day! A few new menu ideas were also introduced last month and we look forward to seeing you at our tables. Don't be shy to ask about delicious croft food and specials at the Lodge and if you want something specific, just let us know! We are still working on our website shopping list but hope to re-introduce a simpler version soon.

On 30 May the **13th AGM** of the company was held in Johannesburg. As usual we were very heartened by the number of attendees, almost 60 owners this year - never a problem to get a quorum at Verlorenkloof AGM's! A number of important issues were brought to the table of which the **financials, ongoing refurbishment** and **replacements** and the implementation of the long awaited **enhancement project** attracted the most comment and discussion. In time we will be corresponding with the owners of each croft around the enhancements planned for the individual crofts. Back at home we needed to launch straight into the roof rethatching of Croft 2 and the project took off from there. Croft 2 was reopened late in June and the "old" owners seem delighted with all the changes and improvements done.

Fishing: Both dams and river are well-stocked and we have had great feedback both from novices as well as from our seasoned professionals. The fish seem lively and are well spread out. We have had fishing consultant, Simon Barnes, complete a Trout Water Appraisal Report on the dams and river. The results were impressive and thorough. We look forward to making the improvements where necessary and wish you a successful winter **fishing** season. Simon's reports were distributed at the AGM to great delight and all fishermen who are interested in obtaining a copy by e-mail, please mail Richard on richard@verlorenkloof.co.za

Cycling: The maps of all the surrounding gravel roads have been finalised and construction of the tracks on Verlorenkloof and the next door Johnson property began this month.

The **Kwena Basin Education Trust** hosted the first teaching experience in May this year, which saw fourteen third year Wits Education students serving their three week teaching practical at our schools. All students and lecturers were accommodated at Verlorenkloof for the duration of the practical and thanks to management and owners' generosity alike, the entire cost of the May teaching experience was donated. In July we will again be hosting close to twenty students and their lecturers. Other than salaries, the teaching experience remains one of the main beneficiaries of the Trust and despite all the specific fundraising, we have calculated that it still costs R 67 per student per night. **In light of Mandela Day on the 18th of July, and the synchronicity of the amount, we would like to call on all Verlorenkloof owners and friends to sponsor a student for a few nights for the July practical. Email kirstin@verlorenkloof for more information. All donations are welcomed with gratitude.**

We look forward to seeing you again and be sure to join us for small eats and a sherry when you check in on Friday afternoons.

Fond regards,

Eric, Heidi and the Verlorenkloof Team



Liesbeth Ntshwane and the housekeeping and service teams sporting the new Verlorenkloof look!

SAVE THE DATE: Birding Big Day – Saturday 30 November 2013