

VERLORENKLOOF MOUNTAIN CALL WINTER 2015



Dear Verlorenkloof Owners and Friends

2015 started off as the wettest New Year in memory – a total of 248mm of rain for December, and then it tapered off and almost stopped at the end of February. Season total rainfall was just less than 760mm. The pics above show VK in winter clothes with the cattle bemused by the new cycle ramps.

Management and Staff are well. In January we welcomed seasoned teacher Mientjie van der Merwe to VK who now schools the Boyce, Kriek and Michelle's children.

We are all looking forward to the June/July holidays commencing today!

Activities: To read more, see maps and pictures on each section – go to www.verlorenkloof.co.za - click on Activities and then the relevant section.

Fishing: Water temperatures are ideal and clarity levels of both the dams and river take sight fishing to a new level. The angler's biggest challenge is staying out of sight from trout lurking below. We are facing some issues with stocking permits for trout and were sad to lose our supplier Tim Brewer from Katrinasrust, who is closing down. We wish him all the best for the future and hope he will GO FISHING a bit more often now!

Botany: Our third botany weekend early in February was attended by more than 40 budding botanists with a talk by Buffelskloof resident botanist and author John Burrows and a ramble up Robins Kloof which yielded our very special *Gladiolus Cateactarum*. A sample was carefully brought to artist Gill Condy who delighted us all with her demonstration of botanical illustration. Many thanks to botanists Frans Krige and Kevin Gill who shared their fountains of knowledge on the flora of Verlorenkloof.

Also in February, we were visited by friend and well known botanist Elsa Pooley, who brought a group of French orchid hunters to explore our kloofs. I am delighted to report that, with their and Frans Krige's able assistance, our orchid list was upped from 19 to 26 species.

Archaeology: Early in March the book *Forgotten World*, co-authored by Peter Delius, Tim Maggs and Alex Schoeman was presented at VK. An informative day with over 80 attendees really put VK's archaeology on the map. Come and get your copy when next you visit!

Birding: Verlorenkloof will again participate in national **Birding Big Day** on the weekend of 27 – 29 November this year. You are invited to join us. See details below.

Hiking: Our new hiking trail map and the continued awareness and improvement of our Respect the Mountain campaign has brought new appreciation to hiking at Verlorenkloof.

Cycling: VK's MTB single track is now fully completed and ready to ride. The route includes mountainside and river and is 11km long in total. We also offer a guided mountain bike tour along this route every week, with Karel leading the ride. Please refer to our website for the mountain bike trail map, and routes.

Meetings for 2015

The board of directors requested that we furnish you with the dates of board meetings and henceforth with any pertinent feedback after meetings.

Meeting 1: Saturday 28 March – Johannesburg

Meeting 2: Saturday 4 July – Johannesburg

Meeting 3: Saturday 22 August – Verlorenkloof

Meeting 4 & AGM: Saturday 3 October – Jhb Country Club, Woodmead:

Due to the positive outcome of the special owner's meeting held in September 2014, the board decided to combine this with the AGM which will then be held in the latter part of the year. We hope that the proposed Saturday morning date will enable more owners to attend.

Meeting 5: Saturday 14 November - Johannesburg

The Kwena Basin Education Trust continues to implement the Teacher Development Program run by Prof Louis Benjamin from UCT. This program, which targets Foundation Phase teachers will be funded for 4 years and supports the three schools in the Kwena Basin and Enkeldoorn, a farm school near Lydenburg.

The first of the bi-annual Wits School of Education teaching experiences took place in May and the second will be in September. Two Wits graduates, Meghan Baiocchi and Natalia Nicholson are teaching and making a significant contribution to the neighbouring Umthombopholile Primary School.

With a donation from TRAC N4, a kitchen facility and extended veranda was built on at the Phakama School on Verlorenkloof – please log into our website, click on NEWS and then on KBET to read all about this project.

Should you wish to make a contribution to this wonderful initiative, please contact Trust administrator Kirstin Legg on kirstleelegg@gmail.com to JOIN IN.

Warm regards, till we see each other again.

Eric, Heidi and the Verlorenkloof team

FACEBOOK: Verlorenkloof Estate

WEBSITE: www.verlorenkloof.co.za

RECEPTION: info@verlorenkloof.co.za

DUTY CELL: 082 048 0777 - PLEASE SAVE THIS NUMBER

SAVE THE DATE:

BIRDING weekend: 27 – 29 November 2015

Join group leaders Geoff Lockwood and Jane Smart for a weekend of feathered fun!

R 1800 per room in shared crofts – BOOK NOW!!

Meals @ R 260 per person. (Shared meals include dinner on Friday and brunch on Sunday)