

Isindaba

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ISIBINDI AFRICA LODGES

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- SANTA'S SHOE BOX
- LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Our Blessing goes for gold.

Blessing Mngomezulu GM of Kosi Forest Lodge was very proud to receive the "Yellow Balloon Floating Trophy" from Paige Gehren for the Most Improved Lodge of the Year!

This competition is based on your Guest Reviews so we look forward to seeing AWESOME reviews coming through – the competition is going to be strong, so it is up to every single team member to ensure that he/she gives of their very best to ensure their lodge gets great reviews.



Isibindi Indaba inspires.

Barbs and Shaun welcome Shaun's baby brother Billy Balloon to the Isibindi Indaba at Bonamanzi Game Reserve. The theme for this year's Isibindi Indaba was "Isibindi – the next level".

Do we want to be AVERAGE, GOOD, GREAT or AWESOME. Everybody agreed that the only place to be was AWESOME so this is where we are all aiming for.

Great fun was had by all with craft gin tasting and an amazing race where Blessing and Penny very nearly got taken by a crocodile! S'true....

See pictures on following page.

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Isibindi Indaba inspires.



Your home away from home!

A new addition to the Isibindi Family is **Isibindi Africa Trails** who have now introduced **Home Stay Visits at Rhino Ridge**.

This is a wonderful opportunity for guest's to book a one night stay at a real living/working Zulu home in the local community. Guests are taken up to the homestead by a guide and then spend the afternoon with the family learning about their way of life, enjoying their traditional food and sleeping in a typical room. The next morning they wake to the sounds of crowing roosters before going out to take part in the morning routine of herding the cattle out of their kraal. After a breakfast of mealie meal and fruit they bid farewell to their new found friends and make their way back to Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge. This can be booked through reservations.



The 4 B's Bruce Palfaman – Zulu Lodge, Bryce Nicholson – Rhino Ridge, Brett Hoy – Thonga Beach & Blessing Kosi Forest preparing for the big Potjie Cook Off!





Thonga Beach Lodge completes bedroom & bathroom refurbishment

Congratulations to Brett and Chandre and all their staff for surviving a lodge refurb and come out smiling!



Zakewu Manzini makes new reed bomas for the bathrooms at Kosi Forest Lodge

Kosi Forest Lodge improvements move ahead!

Kosi Forest Lodge is currently undergoing a lot of improvements. The lapa at the pool is being totally rebuilt and will be a super place for guests to relax at while at the pool. The interior of the rooms, bathrooms and furniture are being repainted to give the rooms a much lighter brighter look. Room 6b of the one family suite is having an indoor bathroom with shower added and some new furniture will be added to the lounge & dining area. We are also looking forward to seeing hammocks outside every room soon.

Zulu Lodge is the next on the list for a makeover. New furnishings are being added to the bedrooms, lounge and dining area and the big news is that the bathrooms are going to be completely remodelled. Watch this space. We look forward to being able to share photos of both Zulu Lodge and Kosi Forest Lodge in the next issue of this newsletter.



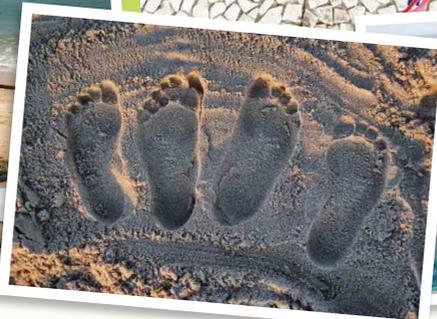
Rhino Ridge celebrate our National Heritage Day much to the delight of our guests.

TWO NEW game viewing vehicles
are on their way to Rhino Ridge!

Leave Tracks. Take Trash Campaign

This turtle has been made out of trash picked up by staff and guests on the beach at Thonga and will be displayed at the marine centre.

Well done to our Ops Manager Barbs du Plessis for initiating the TAKE TRASH LEAVE TRACKS CAMPAIGN at Thonga – let's all walk the talk!



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Fair Trade Accreditation

Janet Henri has been hard at work finalising all the documentation for the Fair Trade audits. This is a humongous task.

Well done and thank you Janet!



It's the last straw!

Congrats to Barbs du Plessis for all the effort she is putting into making our lodges more eco-friendly.

In the drive to reduce single use plastics all plastic straws have been replaced with paper straws and plastic water bottles have been done away with at Rhino Ridge. Each guest is given an Isibindi branded aluminium water bottle personalised with their own name when they arrive at the lodge. There are water coolers situated around the lodge where guests can fill their bottles.

We look forward to seeing this rolled out to all the other lodges shortly.

Santa Shoe Box Campaign

Xmas is round the corner and we are busy packing Shoe Boxes full of goodies for under-privileged children.

The challenge is on to beat the 89 boxes that we collected last year!

Well done to Janet Henri who initiated this campaign at Isibindi. You make us proud!



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Welcome to the Isibindi Family!



The Rhino Ridge Soccer Team

*Nomvelo Manyoni & Chennai Ndemera
showing off their uniforms*



*Our new Yoga Instructor Storm Napier (who also pretends to
be our new Sales Rep based in Cape Town and the UK) doing a
balancing act at Kosi Bay Mouth!*



*Yolande welcomes Kersley Vinay our new Financial Director in
true Isibindi fashion!*



Zulu Lodge welcomes Bruce and Nokubonga as Management Team.

*We wish them every success and
have no doubt they will be flying
lots of yellow balloons there soon!*



*A warm welcome to Audrey and Marike who have joined
our accounts department*

Linda Hlatswayo explaining the Zulu songs at the beautifully rebuilt uMuzi at Isibindi Zulu Lodge



Special Sightings

This pair of giraffe were spotted by Storm and Penny driving out of Memorial Gate in Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. Who knows what they are chewing and why?

We would love to see photos taken by you of strange or funny sightings, they may not necessarily be of animals?





10 years

Congratulations to the following staff for achieving your long service awards. Your constant commitment and hardwork is greatly appreciated!

Top left: Nomali Malambala (Thonga Beach Lodge)
Top right : Thandiwe Nkalane (Thonga Beach Lodge)
Bottom left: Bruce Palfreman (Kosi Forest Lodge)



Ngenzeni Mbonambi
- 5 years -
Mabibi Beach Camp



Siyabonga
- 5 years -
Thonga Beach Lodge



Nomfundo Mdletshe
- 5 years -
Mabibi Beach Camp



Sibongile Zikhali
- 5 years -
Thonga Beach Lodge

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This newsletter is available in both English and isiZulu

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