

## NEWSLETTER

January 2007

### *"Festive Season & New Year"*



Our guests saw the New year in and Christmas with great festivities at Siankaba. Christmas was shared with all the traditional trimmings, including Christmas carols on Christmas eve by our local village church choir. The choir treated all to both traditional Christmas tunes and some local songs sung especially at Christmas. The New year was celebrated with a fireworks display and champagne under the stars. Wishing all our guests and agents the very best for 2007.

*We look forward to sharing it with you!*

# Mandia School



Teacher's House Before and After

New Toilet

We are very proud to have completed our two new projects as hoped both the new teacher's house and the toilet behind it are complete. Thanks go to Lough burgh Rotary-Leicester for the toilet along with Jayne Reeves who organised the sponsorship for the toilet.

Many thanks to our other entire guest who have helped with the school in 2006 and for funding of books etc for 2007. It is all much appreciated and makes such a difference to the children at Mandia school.

We look forward to introducing our first Grade 8 class to Mandia School and have already received an extra 5 teachers from the ministry of Education. This should help with the overloaded work load that the current teachers are experiencing at the school.

Just a reminder to all about our Bike ride from London to Paris in May for the children, this is a great opportunity to raise enough funds to build a new nursery school for the Children.

Anyone who may be interested in sponsoring or doing the ride can look up the challenge on the U foundation website. [www.theufoundation.org](http://www.theufoundation.org) or contact Sarah Elton [sarah@theufoundation.org](mailto:sarah@theufoundation.org)

## The Victoria Falls & The blessed Rains



The raining season brings a whole new life to the Zambian landscape. The trees bud their new leaves and the water rises in the river, rapidly bringing with it a spectacular view of the falls, which are now thundering with the spray and mist that makes them so famous.

As the locals say, "The blessed rain provides new life with the beginning of the new year". The village people are happy as their crops have a good chance of prospering this year.

## Wildlife and Birds



While the rains bring on new life in the bush, many animals have to sacrifice their lives for the survival of others. We had an amazing sighting of an African Rock Python capturing and eating a fully grown vervet monkey. The python was slightly injured after falling with his prey from about a 5meter high tree.

The vervet Monkeys do not seem to be worried about the loss in their family as they have many little ones playfully jumping in the tree tops.

Fishing is on a hold until early March due to a fishing ban that the Zambian Authorities put into place during the breeding season. We will resume our fishing in March with hopefully lots of big ones to catch!

# Staff

Last but not least we are very pleased to introduce our new deputy managers to the Islands of Siankaba.

Ashleigh Dunn and Kevin Jeffrey.

While both Ashleigh & Kevin are the island's Deputy managers Ashleigh looks after our rooms and housekeeping while Kevin inventively takes care of all our Food & Beverage needs.

Ashleigh is from South Africa and has spent sometime in the USA directing summer camps as well as the Boat House Lodge in Balito Bay in Kwa Zulu Natal, Kevin is also from South Africa and has joined us from Ras Nungwi hotel in Zanzibar where he was the Food & Beverage manager for two years.

Ashleigh and Kevin have settled in well and look forward to meeting all our new and repeat guests in 2007.

Sadly, due to ill-health, we had to say good bye to our last couple Johan & Charlotte Coetzee and we do wish them the best of luck with everything.

**Best Wishes to all**  
**Mark & Tanya Stephens & The Siankaba Team**