

April 2008



**Greetings from a very green and lush Zambezi Valley!**

Never having seen the Valley at this time of year and after such a tremendous rainy season, I am in complete awe of the emerald green blanket that just seems to have covered the entire area.

Back in January, finishing our building works for the 2008 season looked challenging with all of the difficulties posed by Mother Nature: heavy rains making roads inaccessible, jetties disappearing into the river somewhere down towards Mozambique and unexpected rain storms washing away entire cement bases! But in spite of all of this we successfully opened for Easter weekend....

And Kasaka River Lodge looks beautiful this year – even if we say it ourselves! Acacia Suite is completed and occupied, as I write this, with a family on their first safari enjoying the new boma lounge area.

Wild Mango Honeymoon suite's new deck is the perfect place to relax and watch the sun set over the river. We've even made the tent open-sided for those who want the view but prefer to relax inside.

High water levels in recent weeks made life in and around the lodge rather interesting: myself and some of the boys spent 3 hours parked in the middle of the Chongwe River trying to get vehicles into the National Park for game drives – before guests arrived, I hasten to add! But we managed to get the vehicle across and it was well worth the effort as our first game drive of the season encountered 12 lions!



We're in here somewhere!



Acacia Suite



Wild Mango



One of the pride of 12

Meanwhile we are looking forward to welcoming Michael Bell and Lynda Hedges to the Lower Zambezi in the next week. Mike and Lynda join us from South Africa with experience in lodge management, game ranging and conservation. Formerly with Marataba Safari Company, a Relais Chateau 5\* Lodge, Mike holds a raft of Senior Guiding qualifications, and Lynda has a Diploma in Nature Conservation: she worked in Marakele and Kruger National Parks tracking and researching wild dogs in the area.

We are also delighted to announce that David Boaler, an experienced walking guide, botanist, ornithologist, Zambezi canoe safari expert and general entertainer (his words!), will be joining our Kasaka team in May. David started life with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority, and was involved in the safari industry for over 20 years, before a temporary break in rather less peaceful locations like Mogadishu, Kabul and Darfur.

And finally, while welcoming new people into our team, our youngest staff member, Olive Safiya Cooke, was born on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Olive is seen here, already looking forward to her first ever safari with Mum and Dad in July, aged 3 months!

With all the changes at camp, we decided that we owed it to you to invest in some professional photographs of the lodge. So we asked Gareth Bentley ([www.garethbentley.com](http://www.garethbentley.com)) to come and stay for a few days and take a few shots in between activities. These photographs will be available for viewing shortly and we will ensure you receive updated images on CD.

Finally, Alex and I will be attending Indaba this year. We will be on the Zambia stand in the DEC: we would love to see you there. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (Melanie) at Kasaka River Lodge, [kasaka@copernet.zm](mailto:kasaka@copernet.zm)

[www.kasakariverlodge.com](http://www.kasakariverlodge.com)



Local wildlife attending the photo shoot!

