



January 2008

Happy New Year from the Kasaka River Lodge Team!

We would like to thank everyone for their support in 2007, making it one of our best seasons ever.

In 2008 things will be getting even better at Kasaka with refurbishments throughout the Lodge taking place during the closed season.

New pathways have been laid on the Tame Side behind the tents (already tried and tested by a local hippo!) and new decking for our Honeymoon tent "Wild Mango", ensuring guests will be offered maximum privacy. Possibly the most exciting new feature is our new accommodation on offer, "The Acacia Suite."..... Photos will follow in the coming months: as you can see, things are a little wet and muddy down in the Valley at present and do not lend themselves very well to photographic opportunities.....

2008 sees new staff joining the Kasaka team and changes within. The first one is that I, (Melanie, complete with baby sparrowhawk) who used to be based at the lodge in charge of catering and the Bush Kids program, will now be based in Lusaka as Marketing/P.R Manager. Although sad to leave the Valley (I can think of no better office/home location in the world) – missing brunch on Nyamangwe Island, or the stories after a day out canoeing in the park with a picnic at Hippo City or fishing at AC point and Chongwe Falls, and the Bush Kids who see the bones of an elephant as archeological finds – I am looking forward to the challenge that comes with my new position and encouraging more people to visit our wonderful country.

There is good news, too.... Simon and Jenny Cooke, Kasaka's majority shareholders and passionate supporters of the Lower Zambezi are expecting a baby in March – which Jenny (shown right) tells us will definitely have at least one Zambian name!



Responsible tourism is a priority for Kasaka as we continue to support the local community through Simon and Jenny's Mugurameno Basic School Charitable Trust, which has raised over \$140,000 for projects in the village since 2003.

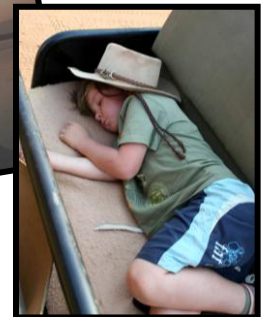
With the completion of the new community school in December 2007, due to open early this year (see the "before" and the "after") this is a real highlight for Kasaka and the village people alike.

Guests are encouraged to visit the village and experience the "real" African culture, and allow their children to interact with the local children. Needless to say, the Mugurameno children take much delight in the gifts of sweets, crayons, footballs, atlases etc brought by our guests!

Kasaka will continue to strive to offer our guests the best possible service during the 2008 season.

Offering a safari experience for all members of the family as well as offering peace and quiet, with an opportunity to enjoy the romance of the African bush. Enjoy activities for the thrill seekers of catching a magnificent tiger fish, or peacefully watch the birds of the Valley, or just relax whilst watching the animals in camp....

2008 sees the re-introduction of painting safaris to the Lodge with well known wildlife artist, Rory McDougall, offering clients another way to experience the African bush and capture it in their own way on canvas. Please feel free to contact myself or Alex (our GM here in Zambia) to find out more about this wonderful package.



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