

## LVHS - Spring Newsletter

An exciting and busy start to the year for LVHS. Last weekend the Mashatu wild dogs, a pack of 18 were released successfully and we are all hoping to get our first sighting of them from horseback soon. These dogs are very endangered and can cover huge distances so it will be very interesting to see if they stay in the Mashatu area and to see how the horses react to them.

Our first Lodge to Lodge ride was a big success, both Lodges used and our Two Mashatus camp; were much appreciated. I hope for those of you who like the idea of a comfortable but still mobile ride, this will appeal. Our next ride is scheduled for the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June..or later in the year, in November.



Pictured here is the Naledi Lodge swimming pool and below the Kanda Camp houses.



Our new horses continue to do well, and we have had some very happy guests on both Braveheart and Valiant. Maru and Thunder continue to be home schooled before graduating as guest horses,

hopefully by the end of the year! Strider one of our long time favourites has sadly been out of action these last few months with a suspected bone chip, we hope to get him operated on as soon as the Limpopo has gone down and we can swim him safely across to South Africa and our vet Dr Higgity!



Jameson (pictured left) has made a full recovery from his fractured pedal bone last year and is coming back into work very nicely. Rhodes also is fully recovered from his very bad cut to his hind leg last year and is loving being back in work! Our shire crosses continue to excel and surprise people by how agile and athletic they are.

The LVHS team has seen a few changes in the last months; Festus West's back up rider has decided he wants to try farming for a bit so regrettably he left in March. However we have a aspiring back up rider in Mmushi, he has been with us since we started here 5 years ago and knows his horses very well, he is a shy but very responsible guy and will do well I am sure. Malora our new safari Manager who replaced Adrian from last year is doing very well and I think its great for the ladies to see another lady being able to drive the truck as well as do the

catering; and all with a big smile. Also some exciting news from us; Louise is expecting a baby end of May so hopefully we will have another rider in a few years time!

Lots of good elephant sightings this year, and with a good season of rain we have lots of green grass for these big animals to eat. Some very good cheetah sightings too and leopard of course. The Mashatu lions have been dispersed a bit so we have had exciting times to get to learn the new prides, so far they seem very tolerant of us on the horses. Well that's all for now and will write again as soon as we have more news!

Cor, Louise and the LVHS team