

Maramba River Lodge

Newsletter 12

July 2011

Staff News



On duty at the restaurant are from left to right.

Juliet Chomba - Chef

Mary Sakufiwa - Chef

Ronah Choongo - Chef

Limpo Sitali - Waitress



Try canoeing gently down the river

A Sunset Drift

After the essential visit to a Wonder of the World presented by the awesome Victoria Falls, the Zambezi offers many more experiences for Livingstone visitors to enjoy if time permits. The exhilaration of rafting or jet boating in the rapids may not be for everyone but during any season a 'sun downer' on the river above the Falls is surely a must. There's a multiplicity of approaches to this from the stateliness of a large paddle steamer to the intimacy of a skilfully paddled mokoro (dug out canoe).

During an Easter time visit this year however, six of us opted for a late afternoon 'float'. We were collected at the lodge and driven some way out of town before closing into the river for a warm bankside welcome from the skipper of our craft. Introductions and safety instructions dealt with, laughter and good humoured banter accompanied embarkation into a substantial and surprisingly comfortable inflatable. With a couple of strong pulls on the oars and a minimum of fuss we were quickly into marginal channels between the reeds and out into open water.

Our experienced skipper combined his knowledge and skills as a guide and oarsman to quietly inform us of the region's geography and wildlife, and to steer us safely as occasion required. Binocular sightings of animals and birds governed modest directional shifts towards a particular island or river bank. Some discretion was clearly needed as a pod of hippos was approached but a breeding colony of white-fronted bee eaters quickly drew us over and close towards their steep sandy cliff. Further along a family of elegant kudu was spotted and shortly afterwards we stopped to watch and photograph a small group of elephants pushing down to the water through a gap in the riparian water-berry trees. For the most part it was a very leisurely and tranquil downstream drift, with an occasional step up in pace as we floated through rippled shallows. Bottles soon emerged from the ice-box and tasty snacks were set out on its table clothed lid. Then, all too soon, a formation of homing egrets reminded us to recharge our glasses for a toast to the now rapidly sinking sun and the colours of the evening sky. 'God paints the best pictures' murmured someone as we drew happily into shore for disembarkation, thankyou, and a rather shorter return journey back to the lodge.

Our trip was organised by **Bundu** and guests at Maramba have the advantage that the company now shares space in the newly opened Activities Centre at the lodge.

[See photos over](#)

Sue and Roland Bailey



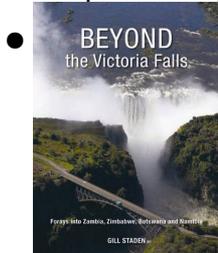
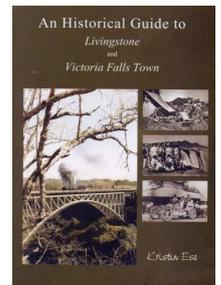


The delightful new **Activities Centre** at the lodge, where you can browse at your leisure before booking for canoeing, bungee jumping, game walks, white water rafting, helicopter rides, village visits etc

New books available to help visitors to the area – can be purchased in the lodge shop

- **An Historical Guide** to Livingstone and Victoria Falls Town – new edition

This guide offers a well thought out route of Livingstone town, with informed descriptions of all the places of interest as well as the showing the evolution of both towns from their establishment in 1898 to the present day. With almost 100 images, some dating back to 1900 and painstakingly restored, this is a must read for all those visiting the area.



Hot off the press is Gill Staden's book '**Beyond the Victoria Falls**' which features the National Parks within about a day's drive away.

In Zambia it covers Mosi-oa-Tunya, Kafue, Lower Zambezi, Lochinvar, Liuwa Plain and Sioma Ngwezi. In Zimbabwe it covers Zambezi, Hwange, Chizarira, Matusadona, Mana Pools and Kazuma. In Botswana it covers Chobe, Moremi, Nata Bird Sanctuary, Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan. In Namibia it cover Bwabwata, Mudumu and Mamili.



As promised in the January newsletter, here is a photograph of the new **Jungle Gym** at the Lodge with the Chess board in the foreground. It has been tested by the Manager's children aged 10 and 8 who have given it the thumbs up! After a manic session on the gym, it was off to cool down in the pool.

Weather for this period :-

	July	August	September
Max Temp	25.5 °C	29.4 °C	32.5 °C
Min Temp	6.3 °C	9.2 °C	14.2 °C
Rainfall	0.0cm	0.0cm	1.0cm
Humidity	29%	26%	24%



Important news for travellers:- From July 1st, Yellow fever vaccinations are required for any person travelling through Zambia to South Africa, transiting through airports, or travelling from South Africa to Zambia. All travellers will now require proof of the Yellow Fever vaccination. You will need to have the vaccination a minimum of 10 days before arrival and it is valid for 10 years. If you plan to travel to Zambia soon, contact your nearest travel clinic to arrange for the vaccination. Yellow fever is a viral infection transmitted by mosquitoes

Exchange Rates

1\$ = K4860
1£ = K7777
1Euro = K6984
1ZAR = K709

Where is Maramba River Lodge?

4K from the Victoria Falls in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park

Contact Details?

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