

HIGHLANDS HERALD

Voice for the Heart of Mpumalanga

Emakhazeni (Belfast), Emgwenya (Waterval Boven), Entokozweni (Machadodorp), Dullstroom & Sakhelwe, Kwena Basin, Elands Valley, Ngodwana, Kaapsehoop

July 2012

Riding for horses around SA against African Horse Sickness

A story about Fever and Tarwood from Kaapsehoop Horse Trail's and their amazing journey two and a half year journey around SA with Isabel Wolf-Gillespie and Lloyd Gillespie. *By Isabel Wolf-Gillespie*

African Horse Sickness (AHS) is a highly infectious non-contagious, vector born viral disease affecting all species of Equidae. It is classified as an Orbivirus of the Reoviridae family of which there are 9 serotypes, all distributed throughout South Africa. It is endemic to Africa, and is characterised by respiratory and circulatory damage, accompanied by fever and loss of appetite. There is currently a vaccine against AHS but it is far from 100% effective. It is also expensive and not made available to all horse owners in SA. It's a controversial issue and there is a big outcry from the equine industry which is questioning whether enough is being done to develop a new vaccine. The question is whether Government is doing enough to protect the South African equine industry, whether it understands the full value and extent of the equine industry?


...cont. page 4




Fever & Tarwood



In partnership with TRAC, the Highlands Herald is distributed at the Machado toll plaza to motorists travelling the N4 Toll Route.



Bergwaters
Eco Lodge
& Spa



a bliss boosting experience

Conferences
Weddings
Events

Tel: 013 257 7081
Cell: 082 805 6099
info@bergwaters.co.za
www.bergwaters.co.za



HI-TECH HIGHLANDS SECURITY

Security services include:

- Alarm Installations
- 24-hour Alarm Monitoring
- SMS Notification
- ARMED Response
- Dedicated vehicles with trained personnel
- Guarding

Hitech Highlands Security Group offers a full range of services to Dullstroom, Belfast, Lydenburg, Machadodorp, Waterval Boven and Carolina areas.

076 920 8831

www.fightcrime.co.za/dullstroom.php

Crime prevention tip of the month:

To make your home look like it is occupied, you can place your lights on a timer so lights go on as soon as it gets dark.

WE FIGHT CRIME / ONS VEG MISDAAD

Acra Retreat - Mountain View Lodge



B & B Waterval Boven

Tel: 013 257 7088 | acra.retreat@gmail.com
 Cell: 083 64 35 305 | www.acra-retreat.co.za

**Horse Riding
Accommodation
Volunteer programmes
Educational programmes**



082 774 5826 / 076 108 0081
info@horsebacktrails.co.za
www.horsebacktrails.co.za

KAAPSEHOOP HORSE TRAILS

Luilekker Guest House & Chalets



Ideal stopover to the Kruger
 Just off the N4, 2km past the W/Boven tunnel, 3-star guest house, also self-catering chalets, open 24/7

Tel: 013 257 7056 | luilekker@netactive.co.za
 Cell: 082 800 1144 | www.luilekker.co.za


Middelburg Country Club



42 Luxury bedrooms, all facing our magnificent golf course. Book your Break-away now. Play some Golf, Tennis, Squash, Bowls and swimming or just relax in our Bar or Restaurant. ★★ ★★ ★★

Tel: 013 282 6176 | www.midgolf.co.za

Old Joe's Kaia



This Country House is a gem en route to the Lowveld with clean mountain air, tranquillity and comfort for your soul, excellent cuisine, fine wines, a beautiful labyrinth... but most of all - true hospitality.

083 229 3751 | www.oldjoes.co.za

Boven Trout Lodge



The historical Boven Trout Lodge is a cosy and well equipped self catering lodge in beautiful, peaceful surroundings in the quaint village of Waterval Boven.

Tel: 013 257 0252 | www.boventroutlodge.co.za

Bergwaters Eco Lodge & Spa



a bliss boosting experience

Book your Bliss Booster Weekend at Bergwaters Spa – Aromatherapy, Hot Stone Massage, Manicures, Pedicures & Facials. Waterval Onder.

Tel: 013 257 7081 | info@bergwaters.co.za
 Cell: 082 804 1527 | www.bergwaters.co.za

Dullstroom Inn



Dullstroom Inn is a pub in a million, with home cooked meals and a fire that's been burning for 30 years. A delightful find, offering gentle comforts so close to the city. The Dullstroom Inn opens from 07:00-22:00 daily.

013 254 0071 | dullstroominn@dullstroom.net

101 Kerk Street, BELFAST
 Tel: 013 253 0952
 Cell: 073 220 3529
 Email: woodysplace@mweb.co.za





WOODY'S PLACE
 Guest House & Cottage
 B & B or Self Catering Accommodation

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 TOURISM GRADING COUNCIL

Comfortable, affordable B&B and self catering, well equipped en-suite accommodation. Centrally situated in Belfast in a peaceful residential area.

Riding for horses around SA against African Horse Sickness

...cont from page 1

The expedition

The first time we met Fever and Tarwood we had no idea what wonderful and challenging experiences lay ahead for the four of us. Fever is a 14h chestnut registered Boerperd bred by Mr Adri van Niekerk in Badplaas. Tarwood is a 15h black Anglo Arab x Boerperd x Shire bred at Kaapsehoop Horse Trails. The two were loaned to us by 'Kaapsehoop Horse Trails' to continue our journey from the Limpopo Province onwards.

We began our journey along the "great, grey, green, greasy" Limpopo River and on our very first day Fever and Tarwood had to wade and swim across the Limpopo River into Zimbabwe at least 20 times. The river's edge was overgrown and thick, and we would cross when the South African bank was impassible. The journey along the river took weeks.

The heat in the Limpopo Valley is excruciating and we spent many days resting in the midday heat under trees, only to continue the day's ride when the sun had dipped. With the journey we became more aware of our horses, of ourselves, and of the land we were riding through; with it we became deeper connected to everything. It was an extraordinary relationship we formed side by side for day and night, day after day. Fever and Tarwood became even greater teachers than companions. A friend said that wasn't it amazing how the two horses loaned to us on this journey were the two that taught us the most. Fever, a red chestnut, we often associate red with fire, explosiveness and power. He's the most incredible athlete with a heart of gold, and ready to give everything to his rider with the right handling and care. Tarwood, meanwhile, was the friendliest

and funniest horse I've ever met. With great endurance and stamina, he was always happy to enjoy the moment.

The two horses travelled, but with long periods of rest in-between, about 4000km with us: all along the Limpopo River, then the Marico, Molopo and Kuruman rivers to Askham, down to the Namibian border and to Augrabies. Then it was along the Orange River and through the Richtersveld to Alexander Bay, before heading down to Port Nolloth. The journey along the West Coast took us through the Namaqualand National Park to Cape Town, before passing Hermanus, Still Bay, Mossel Bay, and from there inland on dirt roads to George and Knysna and through the Tsitsikama Forest to Plettenberg Bay. Then it was back to the coast and on to Port Elizabeth, and then to Port Alfred where we have let them rest with our own herd of horses.

Knowing only the Kaapsehoop mountains, Fever and Tarwood had never seen the ocean before. Their first encounter with the Atlantic Ocean at the Orange River Mouth was on a particularly unpleasant day and Fever was not impressed and blew nervously at "the moving water with white foam on top".

Although on 8 June the two made their way back home to the Kaapsehoop Horse Trails outside Kaapsehoop village where they are currently used on the horse trails, it was an exceptionally sad day for Lloyd and me. It was with a very heavy heart at the memories of the experiences we shared for the last 2 ½ years: thank you to the two beautiful boys! Thank you also to Christo, Linda and Leon from Kaapsehoop Horse Trails (more info at www.horsebacktrails.co.za) for allowing Fever and Tarwood to be a part of our life journey around South Africa.

Lloyd and Isabel are in the process of finalising a book on their journey. Visit their website www.ridingforhorses.co.za for more info.

The Space on The Edge

Great four-bedroom house-to-let on the very edge of Waterval Boven



A spacious, sun-filled, furnished home that sleeps 8 - with a wood stove in the kitchen and a fireplace in the main bedroom - for self-catering short stays. Waterval Boven is renowned for its rock climbing, mountain biking, bird watching, abseiling, fly-fishing, trail running and fantastic historical sites.

The Space is ideal for contemplation, for catching up on life and unread books, or for spending time with friends & family; a TV-free zone.

Info & bookings: 083 263 5438 / btflmind@me.com