

As this is our first newsletter of the year we would like to send everyone belated best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2010!

The lodge is still being battered by seasonal rains, but our maintenance programme is well underway with Lewis Mwanza, our senior coxswain (and rather talented bricklayer), managing the works ready for opening on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2010** – perfect timing for your Easter getaway?

Closed season also brings training and development courses for our staff, and this year we had some of our team based in Lusaka for some intensive skills training at top local companies:

Nobby Chalimba, one of our guides, has been extremely busy over the last couple of months. He spent 6 weeks on Toyota Zambia's Industrial Training Course in vehicle mechanics, doing both theory and practical lessons. He passed his final exam with flying colours and is now the proud graduate with a certificate to match. Alick Mwanza, our hero at the Lusaka office who is in charge of servicing vehicles, buying goods, driving our 10 ton supply truck to camp, and generally being Alex's right hand man, also attended the Course with Sinoya Njobvu, our maintenance man at the lodge... and we are very proud to say both passed their final exam also with exceptional marks. Our thanks go to Neil Stewart and Davies McKees at Toyota for making this possible.

Nobby then used his new-found mechanical skills to help Alick fix a broken CV on our Lusaka office pick up, before attending an Advanced First Aid course. I visited on the last day of the Course to see how practical training was going before the theoretical exam. Kingsley Chinemushonga came all the way from Kariba to attend the course with Nobby and as you can see, is now a deft hand should any staff member or guests suffer a sprain this season!

Then we have Cephus Sakala, Paul Munyeke and "Big Boy" Tembo who all live in Mugurameno village. Adrian Penny at the Southern Sun in Lusaka kindly offered them the opportunity to join his team for some intensive chef and waiter training. All felt they learnt a great deal and Cephus even asked to stay on another week to hone his bar skills.

I'd like to end this month's newsletter on a more personal note. After three amazing years with Kasaka, I have made the decision to take on a new challenge. I will be handing over my marketing role to Alex as of 31<sup>st</sup> March (Alex's email is [reservations@kasakariverlodge.com](mailto:reservations@kasakariverlodge.com)), until then please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or requests.

*Mel*



Nobby and the CPR dummy...



Kingsley learning the art of a perfect splint!



Alick and his truck...

