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NOT FOR EVERYBODY

No. 4 – June 2009
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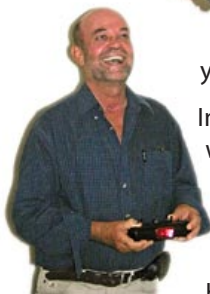


Editorial

Dear friends, some say it borders on the miraculous that Aron and I came out of this airplane alive... Some say, time to join heaven (or hell) had not yet come. I say, we are happy to be back and alive, and sure that all of your positive thoughts and truly good wishes had contributed substan-



tially to our recovery. Thank you! I still have some broken ribs to grow together, but am happily back at the lodge, and piloting again, though only remotely and a small helicopter... If you want to read more about the accident, please visit our new *News* web site (see address at end of this newsletter). There you'll find some links to newspaper articles.



In this unfortunately late edition (sorry for that!) we will talk about stripes, and give you an update about the ongoing renovations at Rostock Ritz. To finalize, we'll entertain you with part II of Jakobs adventures at Rostock Ritz.

Have fun! And, NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!!!

Yours sincerely,

Kücki

Why Do Zebras Have Stripes?

It is generally believed that zebras are dark animals with white stripes, where the pigmentation, which is found solely in the hair and not in the skin, is inhibited. White horses would hardly survive in African nature, and the quagga, an extinct zebra, was striped on the front but had a dark rump.

So, why the hell do they have stripes at all? This is still a hotly debated field. Some ideas why scientists believe evolution has given striped *Equidae* a chance include the following:

1. Stripes serve as a camouflage; colour blind animals (e.g. lions) confuse zebras with tall grass in the savannah, specially at dusk and when they are in herds (consider using a striped body when going for a hike through the savannah, and take your friends with 😊).

2. Insects like e.g. the tsetse fly (transmitting the *sleeping sickness*) favour single-coloured "pray"; in fact, zebras suffer far less from that disease than horses or donkeys.
3. Stripes act as a cooling system creating a mini-air conditioner or fan through a process called convection: the black stripes get almost 10 °C hotter than the white ones, causing the air to start circulating and cooling the zebra down.



How would I look like without stripes?
Let's try to wash them off...

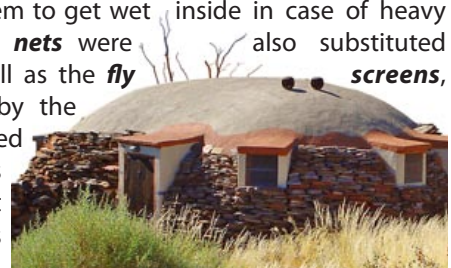
Furthermore, stripe patterns are like zebra fingerprints; they use it to identify each other. A foal will recognize its mum through them, and vice versa. [Information source: world wide web]

We were very happy Maya, our zebra, did not succeed in her effort to change her look (poor one had an hormon flush). We love her stripes, for what ever reason they may be there... 😊

Renovations at Rostock Ritz



Due to an increasing demand by our guests, we've decided to paint also our *standard bungalows* in a **lighter color**. So far we've painted rooms 1 to 8. We plan to finish painting rooms 9 to 16 by the end of this year. We also renewed the **exterior painting** of the bungalows and coated them with a water proof layer, to prevent them to get wet inside in case of heavy rain. The **mosquito nets** were also substituted by new ones, as well as the **fly screens**, which were eaten by the grasshoppers. We used metal screens this time and hope that the grasshoppers teeth can't cope.



Kücki TODAY

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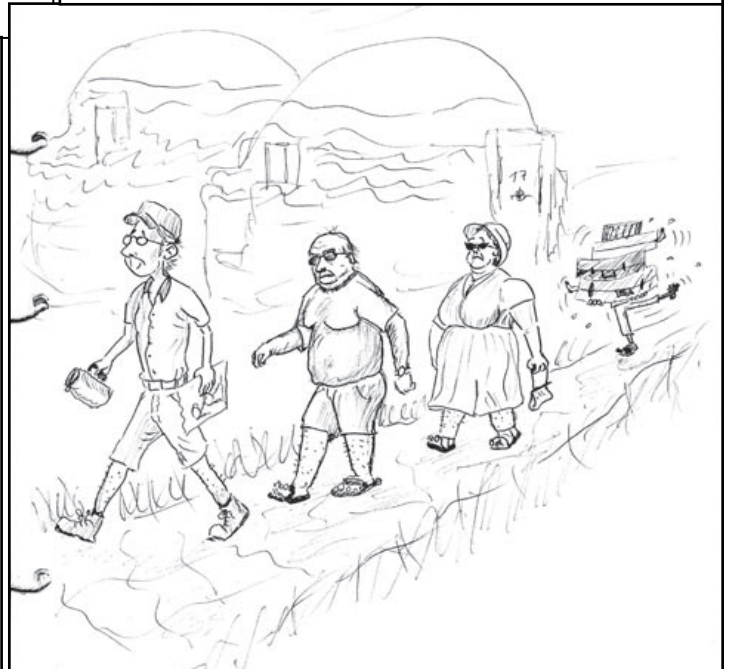
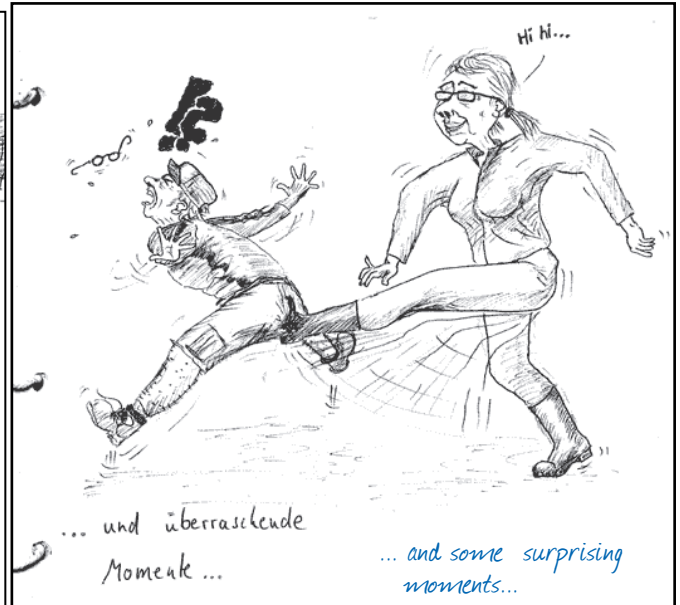
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Jakobs Adventures at Rostock Ritz (Part II) (translations in blue)



In our next newsletter, coming in August, we will invite you to join us on our bushman paintings 4x4 tour, and introduce you to some words in Oshiwambo. Last but not least, we will present the 3rd and last part of Jakobs adventures... Stay tuned! ☺



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