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NOT FOR EVERYBODY

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EDITORIAL



Dear friends, 2009 was challenging to many of us... But what a nice gift we were given: hope. And hope generates confidence (or is it the other way around?), so let's keep using it abundantly, to "think pink" and make every challenge be just a challenge.

I'm recovering well, can even give trouble to zebra Maya and not vice-versa anymore. From the lodge a few news: Lazarus, our kitchen chef, went back to the north; on his place is now Ndina, formerly working for the Strand Hotel. Our guest bungalows are continuously being upgraded (new doors, light painting, etc.), and our meerkat group is still around, coming to the lodge every 3 to 4 days, to get some "lekker" mince.

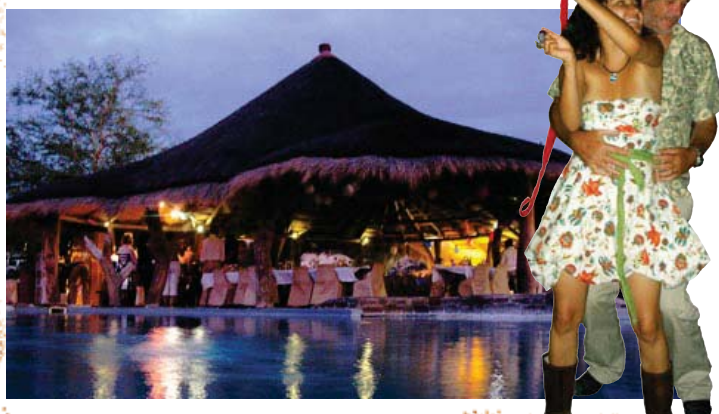
To close that challenging year and celebrate the one to come, we had an awesome New Year's Eve party, starting with a braai at the pool, ending with dancing till our shoes smoked (mine didn't, I took them off before ☺).

I wish us all a wonderful 2010!

Your's sincerely,

Kücki

**P.S.: Our Fly-In 2010
will take place on
the 5th of June!**



A 4x4 Drive to the Bushman Paintings



A long long time ago, I can still remember... Well, in fact I can't, I'm not thaaat old ☺. 800 ± 200 years is the age researchers believe the bushman paintings of the Rostock (formerly called Oasis) cave are old.

The paintings belong to the "richest" cave paintings south of the Erongo and are in a cave located on the Rostock South farm, in the Damaran mountain range, estimated to be 900 millions of



years old. They are reached in an adventurous 3,5 hours 4x4 guided drive from the lodge and lie high up the mountain, yet easy to climb. The view that is offered to you from the top is quite spectacular, maybe one of the reason bushmen people used to "camp" there: they had an excellent overview of the animals walking through the plain, down to the water spring in the Rotberg canyon, and whilst the ladies could choose their favourite fur, man could

target their favourite dinner, and fire and children were protected from sun and wind. For the paintings the bushmen used burnt “ockker”, brought from the Kalahari.

The drive is done in our comfortable safari vehicle, and ends up with a nice sundowner on our sundowner hill, with a 360° panoramic view. Georgi and Eugene will be most happy to guide you!

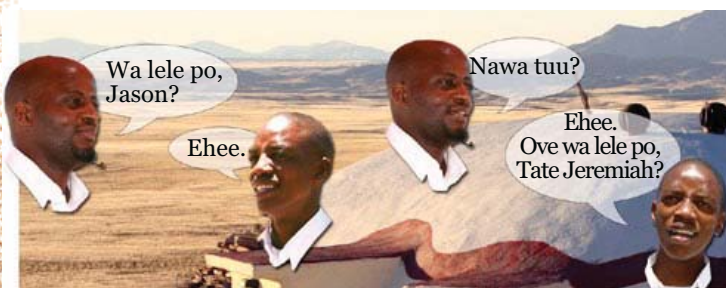
Wa lele po?

~ Mweenda-nakanya iha puka. ~
A traveller with a mouth doesn't get lost.
(Ask directions.)

Most of our staff at Rostock Ritz are Owambo people from the north of Namibia, and speak the Oshiwambo language. There are 7 different dialects of Oshiwambo spoken in Namibia, but only Oshikwanyama and Oshindonga have standard written form and are taught in school.

Despite of the many differences the dialects have, native speakers understand all of them without much difficulty. Oshiwambo is a relative newcomer to Namibia and is a member of the Bantu language family, which originated around what is now Nigeria, and doesn't have the unique “click” sounds, like the Khoisan family of languages (records of Khoisan speakers in southern Africa date almost as far back as 30'000 BC). Speakers of proto-Bantu began migrating in search of better farmland five thousand years ago, and arrived in Namibia around 1'000 BC, like the grand-grandgrand... fathers and mothers of Jason and Jeremiah, two of our waiters.

“Listen” to a good morning greeting ritual in Oshikwanyama between the two of them:



Source: “Hai ti! – A Beginner’s Guide to Oshikwanyama” – Thera Crane, Karl Lindgren-Streicher, Andy Wingo
<http://www.schoolnet.na/languages/> Have a look, it's awesome!!

Jacob's Adventures at Rostock Ritz (Part III)

An excursion to the Bushmen Paintings (see translations in brown)



I hope you enjoyed reading. Our next newsletter is coming when it's coming, no promises anymore... I'll surprise you 😊.

Stay tuned. If you are looking for our previous newsletters: you'll find all of them on our web site.

