

NEWSLETTER

MAY-JUNE 2016

“BE PART OF THE
JOURNEY,
BE PART OF THE
SOLUTION”

ELEPHANT INTRODUCTION

As many of you know, for a while now Shared Universe Ventures has been working in conjunction with the Shared Universe Foundation to help save a herd of elephants by relocating them from a reserve which was overstocked to Mapesu.

There is a lot to arrange before we can even transport the elephants. We had to conduct a new veld (field) study, environmental impact assessment as well as management plan which had to be submitted for approval to the South African Government for Nature Conservation. We are pleased to state that the plan has been approved!

Simultaneously, we have had to upgrade the fence around the reserve and now are beginning the electrification process which is due to be completed by the end of July or early August. By that time the elephants can be relocated to Mapesu.

We are at a critical moment and are seeking donations and funding for the capture, transport and GPS collars. If you would like to be a part of this rescue, please contact us or donate directly via www.ammado.com by searching for Shared Universe Foundation.

Quinten | Mapesu

SUMMARY

- Elephant introduction
- An adventure to remember
- Something warm for winter
- Venison pie recipe
- Recent discoveries
- Butterfly wings, the bagpipes, and the rhino
- A personal invitation to join the adventure



AN ADVENTURE TO REMEMBER

Here is a short story about our latest adventure into a new world of possibilities for Mopane Bush Lodge.

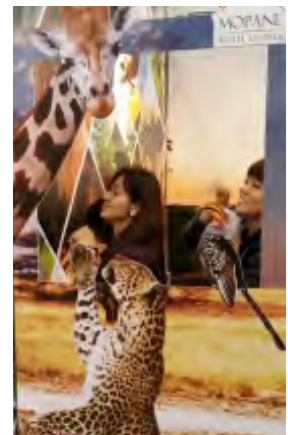
During mid-June both Renhard and I, the GM's, went to Hong Kong to represent and gain some knowledge at the International Travel Expo / MICE Travel Expo held at the Hong Kong Convention Centre. Being the only South African representatives at the event in thirty years, it was a whole new world and experience for us. With over 600 exhibitors and tens of thousands of people attending the show, it was surely one of the biggest events ever attended by Mopane.

Some promising contacts were made and there was no shortage of interest from the buyers and public alike as the show days went on. A special highlight was a visit from the South African consulate to our booth. They showed a keen interest in promoting tourism to South Africa and especially helping Mopane to become a market leader in bringing Asian tourists to our wonderful country. We are currently

devising a strategy on how we will move forward from here and will keep you updated on the progress made.

Besides business, some fun was also to be had at our stand with the help of a photo booth which was a big hit with visitors. Here are some images taken of people in our photo booth.

Michelle | Mopane Bush Lodge



RECENT DISCOVERIES

Who would've known that San rock art shelter paintings as old as 10,000 years are still able to surprise us with something new?

Kaoxa Bush Camp is famously known in this area as the only place in Southern Africa where you can find three locust depicted amongst 200 other paintings they have on display. This fact makes the site incredibly special, and this is why Mopane Bush Lodge is so privileged to be able to take our guest to this ancient place of wonder.

I regularly visit the paintings at the shelter with guests, as it forms a part of our tour. I thought that I have seen and experienced it all until I recently went to the shelter with a group of students and a young America woman which is writing her doctoral thesis on the shelter itself. Instead of me being the interpreter and pointing out the paintings, she was actually doing the tour for me.

I was quite surprised to discover that the

three famous locusts are actually part of a group of fifteen others that can only be seen on closer inspection.



According to Ed Eastwood, a researcher who dedicated his life to interpreting the rock art at Kaoxa wrote, "Locusts must

have been a welcome source of protein for hunter-gatherers, rather than being seen as a plague or swarms being able to devastate large tracts of grassland and strip trees of their leaves, driving herbivorous animals away. Aside from its culinary uses and potential to damage plant life, the locust played a significant role in San thought."

As to their mystical reverence he also stated, "The San also believed that the locust had supernatural powers, and children were not allowed to throw stones at them, and were told to 'eat them nicely' and not play with them, for locusts had to be respected because of their magical powers."

Still to this today the magic of those locusts rubs off on both me and the guests, reminding us that there is yet more to discover and learn from these extraordinary paintings if one searches deeper.

Brigitte | Senior Field Guide

SOMETHING WARM FOR WINTER

As we enter the heart of winter, rather than idle and wait for the season to pass, here at Mopane we embrace it. During the crisp days and cool nights we warm up with a delicious cup of freshly brewed Rooibos tea in front of an open fire where we can't help but daydream of the many adventures both outside and inside the kitchen.

Good wholesome hearty winter food such as bobotie, pancakes and traditional malva pudding, we know how to make the best out of the cold season. Deliciously slow braised venison shanks that we get from our local butcher is perfect for hot venison pies accompanied with winter roasted vegetables.

In winter there is no other place like home and that's why we are bringing home to you. Below is one of our favourite venison pie recipes! Try it and tell us what you think.

Quinton Walton | Head Chef Mopane

SOUTH AFRICAN VENISON PIE

Serves 6 - 8 people

Preparation Time 40 minutes

Cooking Time 3 - 5 hours

Ingredients

1.5 – 2 kg Springbok or other Venison meat (bones in)	250 ml Boiling water
3 - 4 Garlic cloves, finely chopped / minced	2 Chicken stock cubes
3 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil	3-4 Leeks, rinsed and cut into pennies
3 Bay leaves	2 Carrots, peeled and cut into pennies
12 Black peppercorns	3 Tablespoons butter
6 Juniper berries	125 ml Water
8 Whole cloves	2 Rolls ready-made puff pastry, thawed
5 Whole allspice	Extra butter
500 ml Good red wine	1 Egg, lightly beaten
3 Bags rooibos tea	



Method

1. Pour 250ml of boiling water over the teabags, add the two stock cubes and brew for 5 minutes.
2. Gently heat the olive oil in a large heavy based pot.
3. Brown the venison meat on all sides.
4. Tie together the bay leaves, peppercorns, juniper berries, cloves and allspice in a piece of muslin cloth and add to the pot.
5. Pour over the wine and rooibos stock, and then add the garlic.
6. Bring to the boil, then cover the pot and reduce the heat to a simmer.
7. Simmer for 3 – 4 hours.
8. When the meat is soft, remove from heat and cool slightly.
9. Remove the meat, but reserve the cooking liquid.
10. Remove all bones and "pull" the meat finely.
11. Heat the butter in another large pot.
12. Fry the leeks and carrots for 5 minutes then add 125 ml water and cover.
13. After another 5 minutes uncover and add the "pulled" meat.
14. Mix the meat, leeks and carrots well.
15. Add the stock cubes and enough reserved liquid to the desired consistency for a pie filling.
16. Butter a large square casserole dish.
17. Roll open the thawed pastry and line the dish with one sheet, by pressing gently down the sides with your fingers.
18. Fill the dish with the cooled meat mixture and flatten slightly.
19. Place the second pastry sheet over the dish, trim the sides and pinch the bottom and top sheet together all around the dish.
20. With a sharp knife, pierce the pastry in a couple of places.
21. Brush the pastry with the egg to glaze.
22. Bake the pie for 40 minutes in a preheated oven of 175 °C
23. Serve immediately!

Serve the venison pie as a main dish with rice, steamed vegetables, a simple green salad and a glass of good South African red wine. Served in such a way, the humble and underrated "venison meat" becomes perfection!

Reference: <http://www.wine.co.za/news/news.aspx?NEWSID=21472>

Butterfly wings, the bagpipes and the rhino

I have recently returned from Dallas Texas, where I had been working with a select group of advisors who have strong ties to the thriving philanthropic and wealth management sectors in the US. They help wealthy families figure out how to develop and pass on enduring cultures that prepares their heirs to receive and grow their inheritance.

Ten weeks prior to this workshop, an intriguing challenge emerged following a conversation about everyone's favourite piece of music. When Amazing Grace was selected, I mentioned that I used to play this on the bagpipes. I recounted the story of how I played it in the finale at the end-of-year concert at my prep school when I was twelve, and never touched them again for forty-five years. What ensued was an agreement that if I played the bagpipes again, the other delegates would help spread awareness of the work being done at Shared Universe.

The symbolism was not lost on the group. Amazing Grace was composed by John Newton, a captain of a slave trade ship, during his period of repentance whilst in search for redemption. The modern parallel might be the senseless and illegal trade in endangered species. After just six weeks of practice and in full formal dress in the 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35° C) mid-day heat, I played my pipes for the group on behalf of the rhinos and elephants.



I'm delighted to report that discussions have already opened up on the tax planning front so specific proposals can be presented to US-based clients. Also, introductions have already been made for me to meet people that are even better placed to secure high value single-family/organisation donations designed to back one or more of the ambitious projects being developed by Shared Universe Foundation.

James Hill | SUF Trustee

A personal
invitation
to join the
ADVENTURE

Join us and be part of this important project of conserving the amazing South African Wilderness!

We invite you to join us on the journey and become an investor in Shared Universe Ventures.

Our vision is to become one of the best wildlife conservancies in all of Africa, offering a hands-on, up-close and personal experience to our investors while being a commercial success.

- ✓ Enjoy a game reserve without the complexities and cost of personally managing one
- ✓ Contribute to the preservation of the great South African landscape and wildlife including the endangered rhino
- ✓ No timeshare, you are a co-owner
- ✓ Realize your own dream lodge
- ✓ Enjoy the rights to use the Mopane Bush Lodge and other communal facilities
- ✓ Leave a legacy for future generations

For more information come visit the website www.shareduniverseafrica.com or send us an email at contact@shareduniverseafrica.com