

ROVOS STAFF NEWS

Congratulations...

Patricia Khumalo, a hostess on the train, welcomed a baby girl, Siphwe.

Odelia Fourie, in the finance department, delivered a baby boy in April this year who they named Dylan.

Joseph Msiza and **Themba Mashlangu** qualified as firemen on our steam locomotives.



Gareth Van Wyk has been promoted to Train Manager.



Many of you would have travelled with **Eric Annandale** and **Tanya Du Preez** who have been with us in train management for many years. They are now engaged and will wed in early 2013.



Two staff members are celebrating **20 years** at Rovos Rail this year: **Maria Hadzhi** - who works in the laundry and started with us at the Victoria Hotel and **Beatrice Collon** - in marketing.



We are very proud of **Marjorie Vos**, our irreplaceable Mum and Gran, who turned 90 in November last year.



DOMESTIC BLISS at ROVOS RAIL STATION

We recognised the need for companionship here at Rovos Rail and thus provided our three lady ostriches – Betty, Girlie and Dolly – with a male friend. He has been named Zuma, after the President of South Africa, who leads the fray in parenthood. We keep fingers crossed that our guy can earn his keep.

Spring arrived and brought with it a slew of off-spring. Our impalas provided four beautiful calves, as did our springbok, with the blesbok adding two. They're happily settled in, growing incredibly fast and move very quickly across our fields.



Coach Building

This year we have rebuilt three deluxe carriages, are now completing a spare generator car, have commissioned a small diesel shunter as can be seen in the photograph below and have test-driven all nine electric locomotives. Our first pillared dining car to be built within the chassis of a steel car is well advanced and expected to be operational by October this year. We will be building three of these followed by four steel observation cars.



Welcome Brenda



We are pleased to welcome our daughter **Brenda Vos** to the office in Pretoria. She has been put in charge of the Public Relations portfolio, which includes managing our online presence. Brenda is also assisting with the maintenance and care of all our animals.

A Sad Farewell

We are sad to report the death of our plumber, **Andre Smit** and his wife, who died in a car accident in June this year.

Andre was a loyal, willing and happy member of the Rovos family for 17 years and his smile will be missed by all.



OVERSEAS REPRESENTATION



We have for many years been represented successfully by **Henry Kartagener** in New York, **Jennifer Vos** in Byron Bay, Australia, **Robert Schaerer** in London, **Philippe Savoi** in Sao Paulo and **Steven Jin** in Beijing. Many thanks to them for their loyalty and consistent efforts.



The HISTORIC HOMESTEAD

With the doors of St James Manor No.108, and St James Seaforth No.96 officially open we are pleased to announce that a start has been made in the rebuilding of No.94 Main Road, the St James Homestead. The photograph below indicates the extent of the project.

The house dates back to the 1800s and its history is steeply intertwined with that of Seaforth next door. In 1878 the owner of Seaforth, William Farmer, abandoned the agreement of not building his home closer to the main road, which caused him to block the Homestead's view of Simon's Town. In retaliation, the owner of the Homestead, Heinrich Hablutzel, built a high wall on the boundary of his property with Seaforth, dubbed the 'Wall of Hate', which in turn cut off Seaforth's view of False Bay, the Hottentots Holland Mountains and also blocked its early morning sun. On winning the case brought against him by Farmer, Hablutzel then raised the wall by another two metres. In 1939 the Farmer house burnt down and was rebuilt by the new owners even further forward than before to improve their view and sunshine. This just goes to prove that action creates reaction, so – who wins?



St James is making its comeback as one of the trendiest places to stay in Cape Town.

Dear Friends

Greetings from Anthea and I and our capable staff at Rovos Rail.



The last 18 months has seen our consolidation programme reaping just reward but while the low activity in the tourism industry prevails I will be keeping a tight reign on expansion.

The saying 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going' is particularly apt in our operation and while a firm hand has been required on the operating tiller, I have increased our efforts and budget on the sales and marketing front in an endeavour to enhance our occupancies. I am pleased to report that this year is 10% up on the last three years and that our American support has been most evident in this improvement. We hope that the European financial situation recovers in the near future so that our numbers from this area might return to the 2008 levels. Looks uncertain at this moment, however.

Our building programme has continued at a lower intensity with only one more coach to go in the refurbishment diary. A spare generator car is nearly complete and the wooden, pillared dining car is progressing well. The plan is to replace all our wooden service cars with the later model (1960) steel bodies and this includes the dining and four observation cars.

The rebuilding of No.94 Main Road, the St James Homestead, was commenced in May this year. It has become a much bigger project than initially envisaged but all things being equal I expect completion by August 2013 in time for the season. The house will provide us with six spacious rooms to add to the nine already in operation.

Enclosed are updates from our various departments and the Cape to Cairo journey in 2014. Hope you enjoy the news.

Thanking you for your valued support and wishing you the best of health and happiness for 2013.

Regards

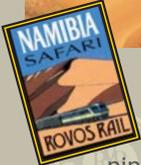


JOURNEY NOTEBOOK

We completed four *Dar es Salaam* return journeys last year but are back to five trips in 2012. Guests seem to enjoying the two-night stop in Madikwe Game Reserve and the excursion at Victoria Falls. The iconic Victoria Falls Hotel is at present undergoing a major refurbishment under the capable eye of Graham Viney, a relation and old friend of the Vos family.



The *Cape Town, Victoria Falls* and *Durban* journeys are muddling along this year showing a slight improvement over the poor occupancies of the last three years. We are hoping that 2013 will produce better results for the tourism industry.



Originally our *Namibia Safari* was seven days but we decided to extend it to nine with the addition of a Sossusvlei excursion. This allows for an unforgettable dinner in the desert and a look at the world's largest sand dunes.

The *African Collage* journey went in reverse from Cape Town to Pretoria for the first time this year. All went well and what an exceptional way to see the country. The guests that travelled with us in May were mostly repeaters, which was very pleasing.

We ran yet another successful *Golf Safari* this year. The golfers thoroughly enjoyed all the fine courses and looked forward to the leader board each evening while the non-golfers learned of battles and monarchs and took pleasure in shopping and game viewing. A relaxed and entertaining journey!



ROVOS RAIL TRAIN SHOOT

For 23 years we have been chartering our train to organisers of successful shooting safaris. These operators have usually booked far in advance and have then endeavoured to consolidate provisional groups while keeping a wary eye on weather and other factors. This arrangement has been made to work with both of us moving our feet as required, but of late the flexibility of the train has been reduced by our utilisation and the railways' schedules.

So, although the chartering opportunity still exists, I have taken the decision to formalise the outings by fixing departure dates and inviting any interested parties to join us on these occasions. This will allow individuals as well as groups to participate.

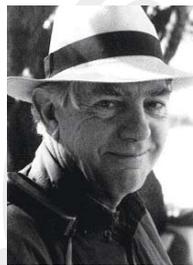
Our first safari is planned for 31 May 2013 and will be run over seven days between Pretoria, Mafikeng, Kimberley, Bloemfontein and Pretoria. There will be five days of shooting while our non-shooters will be looked after in fine fashion by well-known historians and guides with tours and interesting introductions to each area. I have also decided to combine wing shooting with plains game hunting and will aim for a maximum of 12 guns each.

Details of the itinerary can be found on our website and we look forward to hosting you or your clients on this exclusive sojourn. For more information, email alicia@rovos.co.za



Peter Johnson

'I met Peter Johnson in 1989 soon after launching Rovos Rail and was thrilled to have his interest in hiring our train for gamebird shoots around South Africa. He subsequently provided invaluable support to the business and was also a great promoter of the product amongst his friends and client following. He and his wife Clare also contributed enormously to the standards we were encouraged to achieve and his guests certainly raised the bar for all our staff.



'He was the founding member of the African Gamebird Research Education & Development Trust (AGRED) whose efforts in conservation and encouragement of wild bird breeding is well known, and was also an exceptional wild-life photographer and author. He will be sorely missed.'



Pride of Africa Yacht

Rohan has taken some time off to sail the 'Pride of Africa' 46ft catamaran around the Mediterranean during July and August. The history of Gibraltar and southern Spain, let alone the delights of the Amnesia nightclub in Ibiza, have kept him well occupied. He is headed for the Black Sea and we trust his navigational skills don't desert him.



CAPE to CAIRO

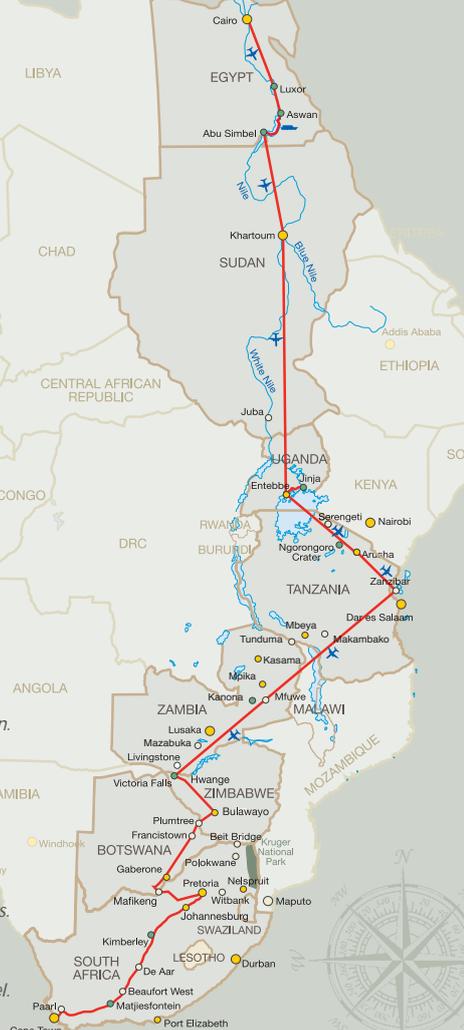
THESE TWO HISTORICALLY LINKED AFRICAN CITIES ARE JOINED TOGETHER BY ROVOS RAIL'S TRANS-AFRICAN SAFARI

The northbound route begins with a four-night train journey from Cape Town to the Victoria Falls. Thereafter, guests join our air safari and continue north to Zanzibar, after which they fly into the heartland of Tanzania with a four-day visit to the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti. Continue on to Entebbe, Uganda, where guests enjoy an optional visit to the chimpanzees and the source of the Nile. The journey then follows the Nile northwards to Khartoum in the Sudan and onto Abu Simbel in Egypt. A luxurious lake cruiser takes guests in a leisurely fashion over three nights to see the historical sights on the shores of Lake Nasser. Then it is on to Luxor for two nights to experience ancient Egypt in all its splendour with visits to temples, quarries and the Valley of Kings and Queens. Guests rejoin the aircraft for the last leg to Cairo where the adventure ends with a tour of the Pyramids, Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities from the Four Seasons First Residence Hotel. See below for reverse.



CAPE TO CAIRO 28-DAY ITINERARY

- DAY 1 *Arrive Cape Town.*
- DAY 2 *Tours Cape Town.*
- DAY 3 *Tours Cape Town.*
- DAY 4 *Train departs Cape Town. Matjiesfontein excursion.*
- DAY 5 *Kimberley tour.*
- DAY 6 *Pretoria city tour. Overnight Pretoria.*
- DAY 7 *Board Rovos Rail. Overnight train.*
- DAY 8 *Breakfast, lunch, dinner and overnight on train.*
- DAY 9 *Arrive Victoria Falls. Overnight hotel.*
- DAY 10 *Victoria Falls activities.*
- DAY 11 *Fly Victoria Falls to Zanzibar. Stone Town tour.*
- DAY 12 *Island spice tour. Overnight Zanzibar.*
- DAY 13 *Fly Zanzibar to Kilimanjaro. Drive to Ngorongoro. Overnight at lodge.*
- DAY 14 *Game drive and picnic lunch on floor of crater.*
- DAY 15 *Transfer to Masek Tented Camp in Serengeti. Afternoon game drive.*
- DAY 16 *Game drives morning and afternoon.*
- DAY 17 *Fly Serengeti to Kilimanjaro to Entebbe, Uganda. Chimpanzee or source-of-the-Nile excursion. Overnight at resort.*
- DAY 18 *Chimpanzee or source-of-the-Nile excursion.*
- DAY 19 *Fly Entebbe to Khartoum, Sudan. Overnight at hotel.*
- DAY 20 *Full- or half-day tours, Khartoum.*
- DAY 21 *Fly to Abu Simbel, Egypt. Lake cruiser.*
- DAY 22 *Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.*
- DAY 23 *Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.*
- DAY 24 *Road transfer to Luxor. Antiquities tours. Overnight at resort.*
- DAY 25 *Antiquities tours. Overnight Luxor.*
- DAY 26 *Fly to Cairo. Tours Cairo. Overnight hotel.*
- DAY 27 *Tours Cairo. Overnight Four Seasons.*
- DAY 28 *Epic 28-day tour ends.*



CAIRO TO CAPE 28-DAY ITINERARY

- DAY 1 *Transfer from Cairo Airport to Four Seasons Residence Hotel.*
- DAY 2 *Tours Cairo. Overnight at hotel.*
- DAY 3 *Morning tours Cairo. Fly to Luxor. Tours Luxor. Overnight at resort.*
- DAY 4 *Tours Luxor. Overnight at resort.*
- DAY 5 *Road transfer to Aswan. Lake Nasser cruise.*
- DAY 6 *Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.*
- DAY 7 *Lake Nasser cruise. Antiquities tours.*
- DAY 8 *Morning antiquities tours. Fly Abu Simbel to Khartoum, Sudan. Overnight at hotel.*
- DAY 9 *Full- or half-day tours, Khartoum.*
- DAY 10 *Fly to Entebbe, Uganda. Chimpanzee or source-of-the-Nile excursions.*
- DAY 11 *Chimpanzee or source-of-the-Nile excursions. Overnight at resort.*
- DAY 12 *Fly to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Road transfer to Ngorongoro. Overnight at lodge.*
- DAY 13 *Game drive and picnic lunch on crater floor.*
- DAY 14 *Transfer to Masek Tented Camp, Serengeti.*
- DAY 15 *Game drives morning and afternoon.*
- DAY 16 *Fly Serengeti to Kilimanjaro to Zanzibar. Stone Town tour.*
- DAY 17 *Island Spice tour. Overnight at hotel.*
- DAY 18 *Fly Zanzibar to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.*
- DAY 19 *Victoria Falls activities. Overnight at hotel.*
- DAY 20 *Board Rovos Rail. Overnight train.*
- DAY 21 *Breakfast, lunch, dinner, overnight on train.*
- DAY 22 *Arrive Pretoria. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.*
- DAY 23 *Pretoria city and Rovos Rail Station tours. Depart for Cape Town. Overnight train.*
- DAY 24 *Kimberley excursion. Overnight train.*
- DAY 25 *Matjiesfontein excursion. Train arrives Cape Town. Overnight hotel.*
- DAY 26 *Tours Cape Town. Overnight hotel.*
- DAY 27 *Tours Cape Town. Overnight hotel.*
- DAY 28 *Epic 28-day tour ends.*