



Princess's Ponderings

No 2

Sea date 28th May 2007

Ahoy Ye Landlubbers!!!

It is sad to say that I have to start my ponderings with some bad news. One of our senior crew has already found life at sea too much and has hit the bottle (or to be more precise - the can!). Chui has found the pressure of watching over us just too much for his little paws to take and was found last night slightly worse for wear! We are all rallying around him to support him through this traumatic time and we know your thoughts are with him as he starts his recovery.



It's amazing to think that after 18 days at sea - I have not been made to walk the plank yet or been keel hauled by Prawn! Though a couple of times I have wanted to jump over board. That has nothing to do with the company, believe me, but more to do with the fact that Lynne and I have had to restrict our internet time due to being out of range of the GPRS system. (*"Oh Yes Mama, this vodacom GPRS system for your internet will work all the way to Mtward!" I think not!!!!*)

Not having 24/7 access to my mates on msn or by email is like Posh without Becks, Chuck without Camilla or an Auzzie without a beer! It's like something is definitely missing. So when we get the teeniest signal we are on the laptops like Chui after a rabbit! (I have been told to try and keep the ponderings clean for our younger readers- you have no idea how hard that is for me!)



We have had an amazing time so far - not to mention the amazing amount of rain we had too! As far as I am concerned this is the fault of the Captain - he is the one who told me that while on board he controls everything - so where is the damn sunshine Oh Captain my Captain?

Still all he cares about is "What's for breakfast?"; "What's for lunch?"; "What's for dinner?" Oh and the most important one of all "Where's my sun downer?" - He has his priorities does old Prawn!

The rain factor was at one stage blamed on First Mate Lynne, as it was discovered that whenever she aired her dirty laundry then it would persistently chuck it down from the heavens! She was banned from doing her washing for three days but since it still rained she was let loose again with her dirty knickers!



And Once Upon a Time when the Princess had some Royal Clothes to wash she would ask her friends the dolphins, whale sharks and friendly birds to help her carry out these menial chores! Off they would swim and fly to do these tasks for the Princess.....yeah rightBack in the real world your Princess herself would be found out the back of the boat donning her striking yellow Marigolds and factor 30 sun cream and white shades (a la Posh Beckham), merrily pounding away on the crews dirty washing singing happily away to herself as she washed, rinsed and wrung out the now spotlessly clean garments! My how times have changed for your Princess - and she did all this without the aid of a safety net or Champagne!!!!

Since leaving Dar we have sailed south stopping first at Sinda Island for what we thought would be a quick overnight stop and then on our way. BUT no! Jim and Penny Bell had other ideas and next day two other Cats joined us at Sinda for yet another farewell drink - FABULOUS!!

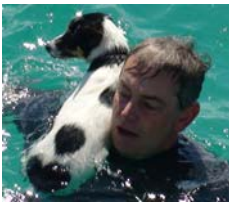
Our trip has taken us down through Sinda, Kwale Island, Mafia (meeting up with Jem & Brenda Riggall - thanks for the coconut soap chaps!). I had never met this couple before but I tell you this Jem Riggall is one of THE funniest guys I have ever met.

It was at Mafia that we had to call the emergency services of **Knight Support**. God they are good! My laptop went tits up (that's sort of clean talk) and once I had thrown my toys out of the pram/yacht Hannes said "oh buy a new one". So the SOS was made to Tina at Knight Support and Dudu (pictured here protecting the FA World Cup) was expedited to go buy me a new laptop and fly it down to Mafia on Coastal (thanks Anna!). Phew so all ok at the castle again.



On from Mafia to tiny island called Okuza - wow it was gorgeous. Clear seas, only a few fishermen on it and nothing much else! Then we anchored off Bawara Reef had went for a dive - Fantastic - what a life!

We then anchored off Songo Songo - it's like a mini Aberdeen with all its wee rigs in the sea! We tested out the security and they passed all the tests we flung at them. We were surrounded by a large pod of dolphins for two days here - I would show you the photos of them but Hannes missed them! They were spectacular jumping high out of the water and flipping over and over!



This is also where we met Howard and George from Songo Songo they swam over to say Jambo! - where they were met and interrogated by our security guard - Chui.



Here is my new best mate Hamisi from Kilwa Ruins holding up a fantastic Baobab tree. The Ruins are a must for all visitors and remember to take your mosie spray and for goodness sake don't forget to buy a permit before you go over there!!!

We were looked after by the lovely Kerry at Kilwa Lodge (www.kilwalodge.co.za) - what an angel! She made sure we had access to the internet (phew) and sent out a search party to get us eggs. Thanks Kerry you are a star. It was here too that Chui made friends with two other Jack Russells - now I have to tell you that both of these new mates were male and one (aptly named Muffin - I kid you not!) was very fond of little Chui - lets just say if they were in prison Muffin wanted Chui for his Bitch! I say no more other than Chui held his own very well (no pun intended!)

So no major mishaps well unless you call Hannes breaking his toe a mishap! Bless him. He broke his toe by stubbing it on the thingy on the starboard side of the yacht. Now please bear in mind I am a princess so the descriptive term "thingy" is as nautical as you are going to get at this stage in my travels on board. As my main role on this journey, apart from loo cleaning, is the on board medical first responder - I am proud to say that I knew nothing about this toe breaking incident for a whole day - yep definitely worth having me on board!!!!!!



We are anchored at Mikindani and Lynne and Prawn's mate Graham is coming on board for dinner so I guess I better go and get my Royal Butt into gear!. It has to be said it is a great life and we have not tried to kill one another yet (early days I hear you cry!) but there is one little, teeny weeny, miniscule problem that your Princess does have and she is trying to deal with it. If you have the answer please let me know.....but.....Where on earth does one get a bloody pedicure out at sea!!!!!

Princess Out
Xxxx

Prinny and Lynne looking for Dr Livingston I presume!



JD's at Kilwa Lodge Bar
Kilwa.

Watch out for more pics of this sign - it was 'borrowed' from our friends bar in Dar and we said we would take pics of it on its travels! Our thanks to John, Chris and Graham for kindly donating the sign from JD's Bar.



JD's at Ten Degrees South Bar,
Mikindani