



PRINCESS'S PONDERINGS

NO 3

Sea dateXXXXX Land Date 22nd June 2007

"Oh no!" I hear you cry "Not more bloody ponderings!!"

Yep it's that time again me hearties. Time to splice the main sail and bring out the barrel of rum. The Prinny has so much to tell you and most of it you will probably not care about, the sun, the sea, the sand and the se..... Well everything that goes with it.

To quote old Shirley Bassey "Where do I begin?" Well I left you with a taste of Mikindani. So I guess we must be going to start at Mtwara. Now Mtwara is a pretty place especially when you are running out of veggies and need to stock up on yer rum Mtwara is a bloody beautiful place!



So picture the scene. Lynne, Hannes and I go ashore and went shopping with the help of Graham's Driver. (now remember Graham is Lynne and Eric's friend I told you about in No 2 issue - please keep up!). We had a great time going round buying all the bits we need in the markets. First stop the Booze! Priorities my dears! Well what a feast to the eyes. Choices, choices, choices - as long as you are after Kili beer, Konyagi or really really dodgy wine then this is the place for you. Oh but on the shelf there is a bottle of Rum. Yep let's get that.

The rest of the shopping was pretty boring (there were no Woolworths, no Marks and Sparks and No Backsberg wine!). Boring that is until we went to buy chicken for dinner. Again I feel the need to remind you that I am a ruddy Princess and I DO NOT DO choosing your dinner and have them kill it in front of you. So I sat in the car till the deed was done. Sad to say none of us have every seen such scrawny looking birds! Honestly they made Kate Moss look distinctly overweight!

Shopping done we head off to the slipway bit and Eric came to get us in the dingy. Hannes hands over the box of goodies with the rum in it when there is an almighty SPLASH as the rum heads north to Ole Davey Jones's Locker. The locals get excited but it's too deep and Ole Davey is keeping a tight hold of his booty. Never fear tho we send in our secret weapon 005½ Potgieter, Hannes Potgieter to go on an underwater search and recovery mission. Bigger me! he finds it and brings it back safely to be devoured amongst your happy crew. PHEW!



We moved on to Mnazi bay (this is where the Artumas Camp is) and we had great sundowners on the beach there. Yep life is too hectic and I may need counselling soon.



Well we finally left Tanzania on the 5th of June. We sailed into Mozambique heading towards Palma. We were told this would be a horrible place to anchor and advised not to go there. BUT we intrepid explorers laughed in the face of fear and anchored off Palma. Guys I gotta tell ya it is a gorgeous little bay and this is where we got stamped into Mozambique. It is so clean; the locals were great and so friendly and made us so welcome and LOVED Chui ! All the dhows are so different to the ones in Dar. They are all brightly painted. They kept coming past us and we did not know who got more attention, the Yacht or Chui - they were fascinated by him. Even when we went ashore word had spread like wild fire and Eric was Mzee Mbwa, it was hysterical.



On the 11th of June it was Captain Eric and First Mate Lynne's wedding anniversary. So I made them pog off to the island while Hannes and I set up Chez Rho Restaurant on the top deck. They had champagne sundowners and then a very romantic dinner for 2 up top.



Chui has been giving his mum and dad a hard time in the last wee while and he has been misbehaving! BUT who could get angry at this little guy:-



"Oh Oh Mum looks like she needs rescuing again!"



"Ok Gates locked and all secure, time for my dinner!"



"I brought it back so where's my prize?"



"Right mum, I've checked your gear, your ok to go for a dive now!"



"This VIP Protection Duty is a bit much when you have a Princess to look after!"

The Bad News! Ok so I have left you with my Ponderings No 3 to keep you all going for a while. Now I have to up date you all in that Hannes and I are off the Yacht just now.

On the 8th of June Hannes woke up with a terribly high temperature and he thought he was just feeling a bit rough. Like all true stubborn male Afrikaaners he said he would be ok. Day two of this we did a malaria test which came back negative but his temp was really high. Dr. Belia in Dar was fantastic and with her guidance we started him on Malaria treatment anyway and after a couple of days where I thought I was losing my husband he started to get better. Then on the early hours of the 14th his temperature went through the roof again. I phoned Belia again at 0300hrs and she was nice and calm with me and told me to keep him on the drugs and watch him. I told Hannes this and he then admitted defeat and said to get him home. I almost did laps of joy around the yacht in that he had finally allowed me to fly him home - in hind sight I should have done this days ago but trust me guys hind sight is a great thing. ANYHOW and this is where I am totally biased. Knight Support are bloody amazing! I phoned Tina Sutton at 0330hrs and she had the evacuation organised before I put the phone down. Edmund from Coastal Air was fantastic, Mozambique required 24 hour notice to fly in aircraft to Mocimboa da Praia. BUT Edmund managed to get this clearance for us and we left there at 2pm and Hannes was under the care of Knight Support Paramedics Flora and Godfrey - they are fantastic and I have never been so happy to see anyone in all my life. Having arranged tons of evacuations for other people during my time at Knight Support it is weird being the one needing the help.

Hannes got to the IST and was immediately looked after by the fantastic doctors, nurses and lab staff. Within the hour Belia was telling us that Hannes was clear of Malaria but he had infact got Septicaemia. Thank God we got him home. He spent two days in the IST clinic and is now recovering at home being waited on hand and foot by yours truly!

Our sincere thanks for everything go to

- Dr Belia and her Staff at IST Clinic
- Tina Sutton and her Paramedic Crew and Chris Mottley for his support at the clinic.
- Edmund and pilot Julienne of Coastal Airways
- Doug Bramsen of Strategis Insurance
- And of course to Eric & Lynne who got me through the last week or so and for just being great.

Hannes will be flying back to rejoin the Yacht on the 10th of July and I will be going back on the 7th of August.

Until then there will be a break in the Ponderings - so enjoy the break and I will be back in touch in August.

Princess Out

Xxxxx