

# Vuk' Africa Tours



## Vuk' Africa Tours' Newsletter – May 2010

***Sanibonani bangani bethu:*** “Hello, our friends:” (in Zulu)

Greetings from our beautiful Valley! Welcome to the first Vuk' Africa newsletter for 2010.

It's set to be a busy time, with the FIFA World Cup just around the corner and South Africa about to hit news headlines worldwide. It's also time to remember that there's another side to South Africa; a South Africa away from the soccer field and off route from usual tourist paths. It's a South Africa that's full of culture, stories, and music. Its right here in our beautiful Valley, only 40 minutes west of Durban.

As we lead up to the World Cup, we've been busy promoting our tours by visiting backpackers and B&Bs throughout Durban. Everyone we meet is excited about the tours because they're so unique. We're not artificially creating something for tourists as other cultural villages are. We're about giving visitors the opportunity to experience the actual day-to-day life of the Zulu people and walk along side them for a day!

## Vision Night



On Friday 23 April, our friends, supporters, past tourists, and tourism associates flocked into Light Providers for the Vuk’ Africa “Vision Night,” a celebration of music, dance, and food that showcased our tours and shared our vision to empower and develop the local community.

What a special night it was! For some of our visitors it was their first time visiting the Valley. They heard the story of Vuk’ Africa and many tried their skill at the Zulu dance kick while everyone was treated to a spread of Zulu food including pap, chicken, beef curry, salads, *jeqe* (steamed bread), *imfino* (vegetables), and butternut. Everyone left inspired, asking how they can become part of the vision!

## Thokomala Drop-In Centre

Vuk’ Africa is located next door to our friends at Thokomala Children’s Home, a home for more than 25 orphaned children in the Valley. In partnership, Vuk’ Africa and Thokomala have recently opened a drop-in centre, where all school students can go after school to receive a hot meal. There are thousands of orphans and vulnerable children in the community who are living with brothers and sisters or family members. Poverty forces many to go without food, often going to school hungry. The new drop-in centre that opened in March enables these children to be given their most basic need – food.



We’re proud to say that the project is entirely funded by tourists who have visited Thokomala Children’s Home during their Vuk’ Africa tour — tourists affected by the plight of these children and inspired to create a meaningful change. On behalf of these beautiful children and from the bottom of our hearts, we say THANK YOU.

Vuk’ Africa also provided school uniforms for all 25 children at the orphanage so they could go back to school this year, as shown in this photo.



## Introducing . . . “The Show”!

Tourists have always raved about the song and dance performance they enjoy during our tours. In the past, we’ve had fantastic dancers, musicians, and poets, all doing their own thing to entertain you.



Today, what had been separated is now integrated. Now we’re taking it one step further by combining all of these talents to take you deeper into the musical heart of Africa by producing “The Show,” a journey into the world-renowned sounds of African culture. Brought to you by



the youth at Light Providers, performers merge modern hip-hop, gospel, and *kwaito* with the traditional Zulu kick and poetry, all of which tells the stories of the Zulu culture in this community. It’s interactive and fun — guaranteed to get the audience up and dancing!

## Partnership with Australian Volunteers International (AVI)

Vuk’ Africa is proud to announce its new partnership with Australian Volunteers International (AVI), the Australian government’s volunteer program that places skilled volunteers in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East. Through the placement of an AVI volunteer (Operations Manager Katie Blundy), AVI is supporting Vuk’ Africa’s vision of empowering, developing, and showcasing a number of developing communities in South Africa.

As always, thank you for being a part of this vision, helping Vuk’ Africa transform our vision into reality. We hope to see you again in the Valley of 1000 Hills. Until then, *Salani kahle*. (Stay well.)



**Vuk’ Africa Tours and Training**

P.O. Box 14040 Botha’s Hills 3660

Office: 031 765 4877

Mobile: 078 3365 094

Email: [info@vukafricatours.com](mailto:info@vukafricatours.com)

Web: [www.vukafricatours.com](http://www.vukafricatours.com)

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***Vuk’ Africa is a cultural tourism organisation that seeks to empower, develop, and showcase developing communities in South Africa.***