

## ENVIRO '98

The Enviro '98 Competition reached a climax in September with the National Youth Symposium being held at the Drakensberg Wetland Project. More than 70 children and many teachers and helpers came together from all over the country and presented a vast array of projects dealing with every conceivable aspect of the environment. In the Border Region, Stirling Primary undertook a study of the Ishlanza River and Transwilger School (high school category) submitted a project on the fossils of Lady Grey. This included the recovery of dinosaur bones

from an archaeological site. The regional winners in the Eastern Cape, McClachlan Primary and Humansdorp Sekondêreskool, undertook community projects, one being an investigation of the effects of alcohol abuse in the community. All the projects certainly achieved the aim of encouraging young people to become actively involved in improving their local environments.

This partnership project with Eskom involved literally hundreds of people who planned, attended workshops and organised environmental projects. We are grateful to

Eskom for covering most of the costs of Enviro '98 and to the many Eskom employees, ably led by Lex Martin, as well as the many WESSA volunteers who helped to organise and run the competition. A letter of thanks has been sent to the CEO of Eskom by Graham Avery (WESSA president) and our sincere thanks are due to Lynne McEwan and David Duncan of WESSA: Northern Areas for co-ordinating this national project. For details of the Enviro '99 Competition, tel. David Duncan at (011) 486-3294/5.



ABOVE LEFT Lex Martin (Eskom) Lynn McEwan (WESSA) and the Pineview Primary EcoClub Team Portia Roos, Amanda Barties, Randall Roos, Willem Cupido

ABOVE RIGHT Willem Cupido and Randall Roos with puppets used in their pre-school environmental awareness programme (Pineview Primary Enviro '98 entry)

BELOW Pineview EcoClub Enviro '98 Team Willem Cupido, Amanda Barties, Randall Roos, Portia Roos.



# GREEN SCENE

## JET-SETTING RHINOS

Four white rhinos – one bull and three cows – have been transported to Canada aboard a South African Airways 747 freighter. The rhinos underwent a comprehensive acclimatisation programme before they departed. Dr Douw Grobler of the Kruger National Park explains: "We received the enquiry from the Africa Lion Safari Park in Ontario and a colleague in Canada inspected the facility and reported that it was well run and suitable for these animals."

The rhino were captured in March 1998 and, over the next six months, were put through a sensitive programme to prepare them for the translocation. "The young animals were kept in a large boma where they became used to having people around them. They also learned to accept food and water. It was vital that the animals were compatible with one another, and we had to swop one of the females which did not adapt to the others," said Grobler. Once the group had settled "crate training" began. "We placed the crates in which the animals would be transported inside the boma, and after a few days started putting their food and water inside them. This familiarises them with the crates and they also learn to drink from specially designed water containers inside the crates."

The next phase involved getting the rhinos used to the idea of confinement, so they were crated for three consecutive sessions, the first lasting eight hours, working up to a 24-hour unbroken confinement. "We then loaded the crates on to trucks and drove them around for a while. This helped them accept the idea of noise and motion associated with transport."

When Grobler was satisfied that the rhinos were sufficiently acclimatised to all the elements of their journey, they travelled by road to Johannesburg International Airport.

On arrival in New York, the rhino safely continued their journey by road to the Africa Lion Safari Park in Ontario, Canada.