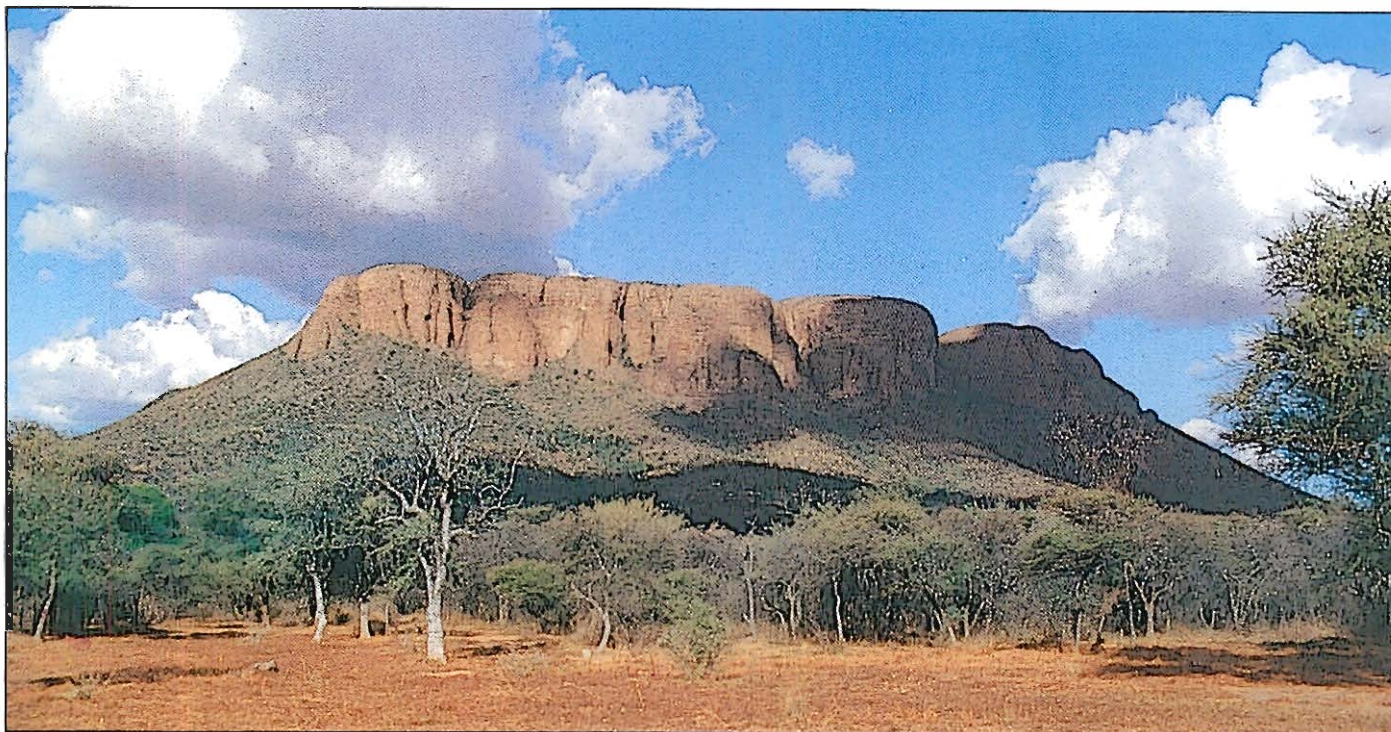


WILDERNESS

SANCTUARY

No. 18 1993



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE WILDERNESS TRUST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND LAPALALA WILDERNESS

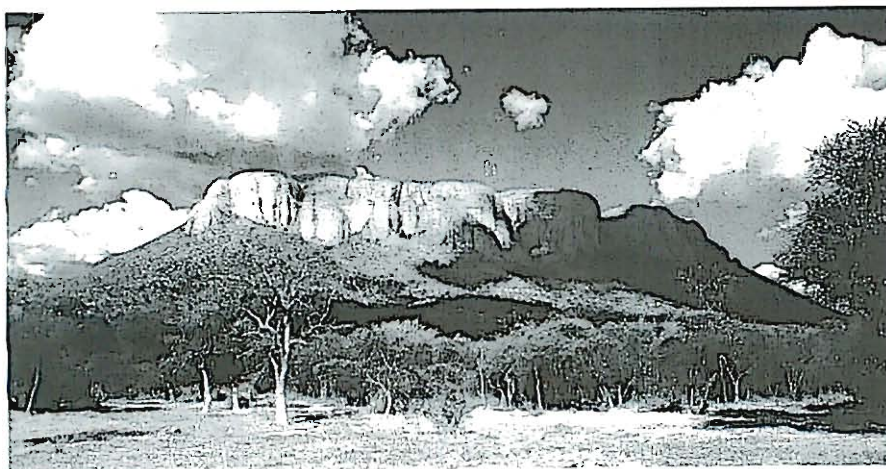
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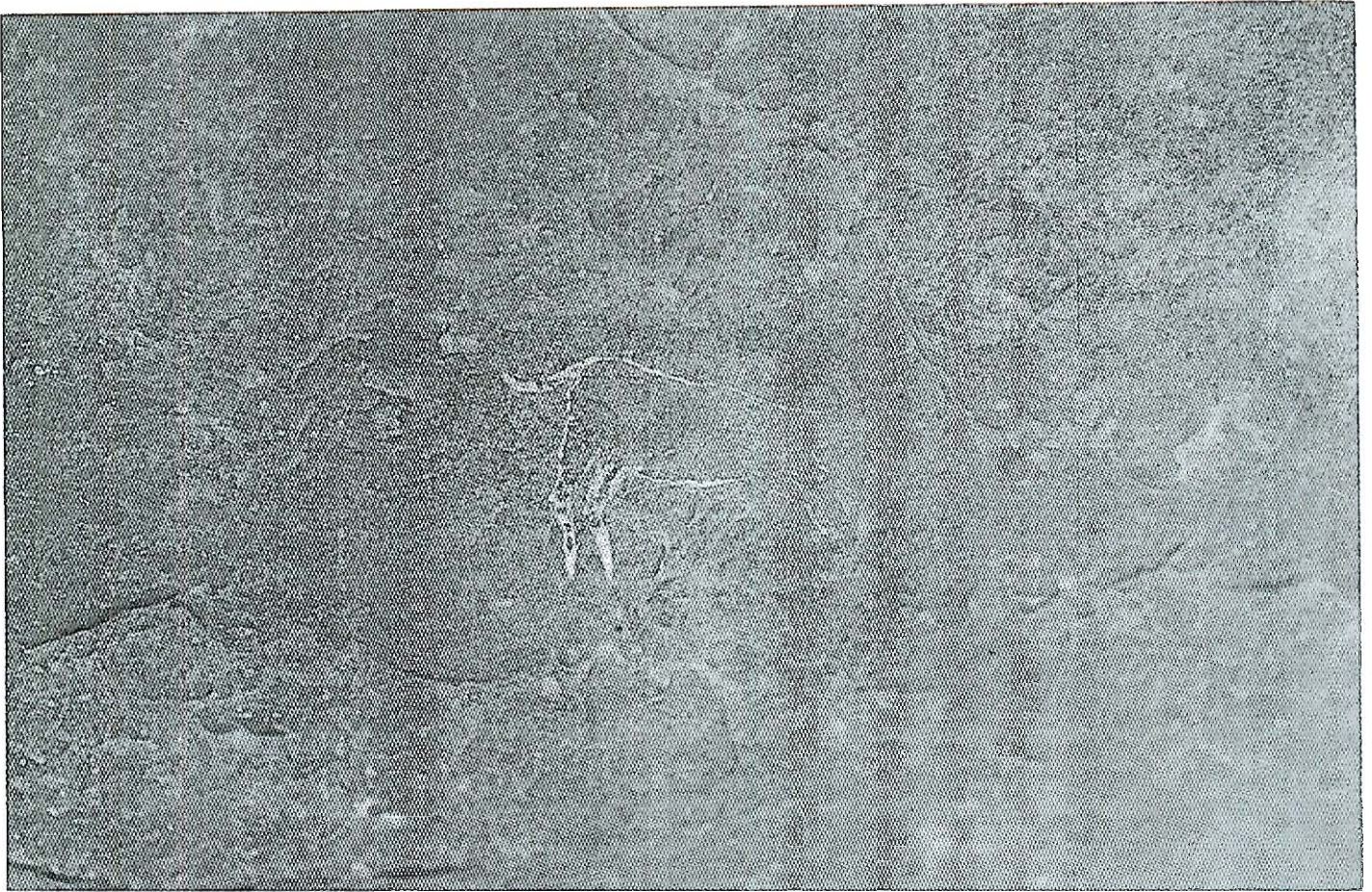
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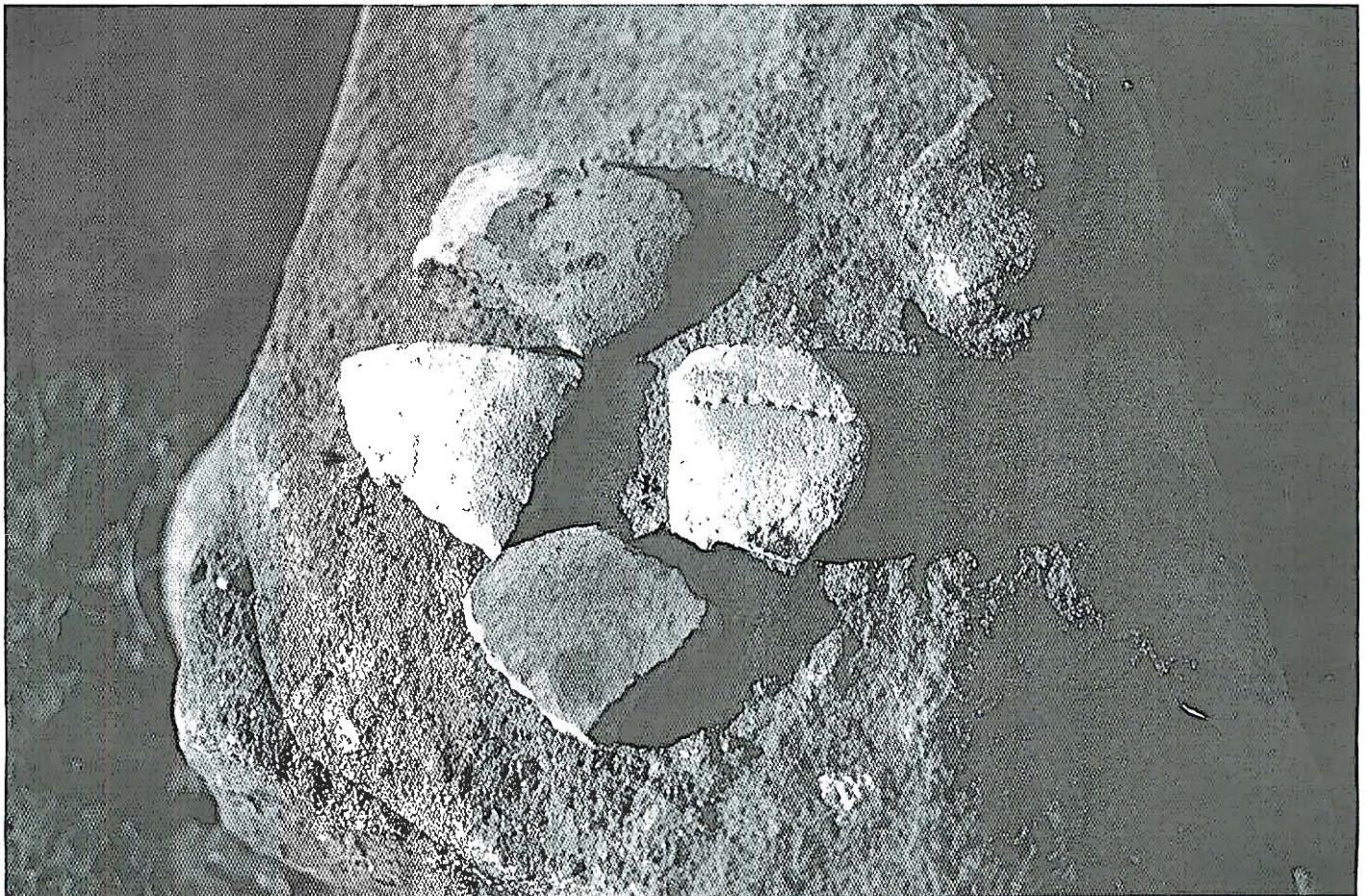


COVER PICTURE: Westside of the Waterberg mountain range.





10 Indeterminate animal at Elephant Hills.



11 Pottery from the Elephant Hills painted shelter. The decorated sherd may be comparable in age to the upper Sotho-Tswana component of the saddle site below Malore Hill.

Lapalala would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the following for their assistance in the raising and return of Bwana:

Karen Trendler – Director ARC and staff
Nestlé, Mr Dave Upshon for the provision of
'Rhino milk'
Dr Kobus du Toit
Dr Richard Burroughs
Dr Peter Rogers
Natal Parks Board (Rhino Capture Unit)

(Reprinted courtesy of diversions, Leisuretime Journal for Healthcare Professionals)

Bwana goes home

On the 31 March, Bwana the orphaned black rhino, returned home to Lapalala and to his new foster mother, Conita Walker.

Raised at ARC (Animal Rehabilitation Centre) outside Pretoria, he was just nine months old and weighed in at 180 kilograms. The vets at ARC were most concerned about his return, as they felt he was too young and would suffer stress with the transfer and the change in keeper.

He did endure a degree of stress which resulted in attacks of diarrhoea and complications brought on more by a lack of not understanding rhino behaviour. The presence of humans (new ones that is), was a further complication. Conita and her assistant Titius literally had to start from scratch once Karen Trendler, his first mother, left and the slow process of winning over his confidence, understanding his needs, moods and sounds began.

A further worry at the time was the special milk formula which he consumed – 24 litres a day – with the news that it would cease to be available due to the high costs of production.

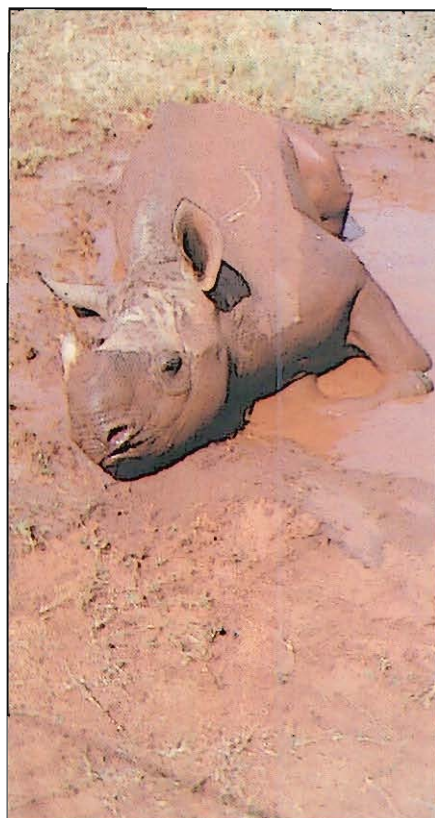
Conita commenced her search for a suitable readily available supply and studied Anna Merz's book 'Rhino at the brink of Extinction'. I had met Anna last year (1992) in Kenya and she, together with Daphne Sheldrick, who has probably raised more black rhino than any living person, have been most helpful. Anna raised a black rhino cow from birth at Ngare Seroi Rhino Sanctuary and Daphne needs little introduction in terms of raising orphaned animals, especially rhinos and elephants, mostly victims of their mothers' brutal killing at the hands of armed poachers in Kenya's national parks. A sad tale which has seen the

demise of tens of thousands of rhino throughout Africa.

Bwana's story was not dissimilar. He was born on the 11 July 1992 at Lapalala Wilderness and abandoned the same day by his mother who had suffered stress as a result of being released into a sanctuary that already contained four established black rhino and consequently gave birth prematurely – he only weighed 21 kilograms instead of an estimated 30-35 kilograms. He was unable to follow her and the fortunate approach of a game viewing vehicle found him in the roadway, squealing, shivering and wrinkled. There is a good chance the mother fled upon hearing the vehicle approach, although we will never know for certain. All we do know is that it was nothing short of miraculous that Rod Stocks, Manager at the tourist lodge, came upon him.

Bwana means 'Mister' in the east African Swahili dialect and Tshiwana, his Pedi name, means orphan. His companion in the adjacent pen, Ntandane, which in Zulu means orphan, has got along famously with Bwana, although for the first four months they were kept separate. On the 27 July, the interleading gate was opened between the two pens, and it did not take Bwana long to go through and be spotted by Ntandane. For the next fifteen minutes, we were witness to a terrific showing match – Bwana by this time was nearly 300 kilograms and Ntandane weighed in at about 500.

Ntandane had the weight advantage and an 18 centimetre sharp horn which the younger rhino did not take too kindly to and so retreated back into his area. I immediately felt we should dehorn the older rhino and sought advice from a number of vets with rhino experience, who all agreed with me. Ntandane later



Above: Enjoying a mudbath

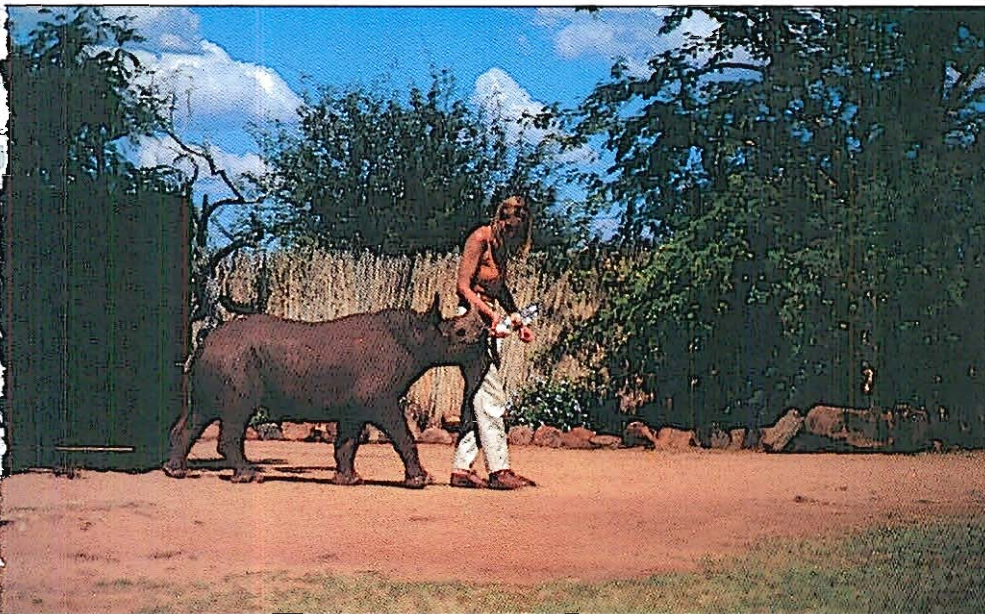
Above right: Bwana with Conita Walker, his foster mother, learning the different edible plants

Right: Arriving back from ARC, Bwana is led from his crate by Karen Trendler

had nine centimetres taken off his horn.

The reason for getting them together is to ultimately reduce Bwana's dependence on his foster mother and Titius, and for him to eventually go wild. It is felt that they will both have an advantage in growing up as rhino should, even if they eventually have their differences (hopefully not serious). Certainly for the next four to five years they won't have many problems, as it is our intention to create a new black rhino sanctuary in a

Daphne Sheldrick
Anna Mertz
Dr Walter Eschenberg
A very special thank you to the Natal Parks
Board for the donation of NTandane as a
companion to Bwana.



5 000 hectare area where our home is situated. Both rhino are presently in pens adjacent to our home Doornleegte, and will not go into the sanctuary where Bwana's mother lives, along with eight other adult black rhino.

Careful monitoring of the sanctuary by our staff has revealed that we are in all probability at the upper limit of the carrying capacity of bulls and if we did place them in there, they would be killed by the resident rhino. We don't know enough

about rhino generally and even less of their behaviour when introduced to small sanctuaries. Nevertheless this holds out great promise for future black rhino conservation, providing one carefully assesses the habitat in relation to the founding population amongst other requirements. Severe losses have occurred in other sanctuaries because of a lack of understanding of rhino and their requirements and is something we cannot afford at this point in time of the black rhino's serious decline. I for one, cannot

wait for the two to come together permanently and move into a much larger area. My much loved and cherished garden has undergone a major assault with Bwana's penchant for Barberton Daisies, Aloes, succulents, potato creepers plumbago and the rest, not to mention the barricades comprised of swimming pool fencing around our verandah when he has sailed forth accompanied by Conita and Titius on his afternoon forays. So much for tree planting on Arbor Day!

Conita, nonetheless, has spent every day guiding him and exposing him to the natural browse in our garden and his own 3 hectare enclosure behind our house. He is occasionally frightened out of his wits by the odd scurrying leguaan or baboon perched atop his fence-post. He tries to eat nearly everything and rejects a good few as he increases his intake. Conita has so far identified fifteen different trees and shrubs. At the time of writing, he still consumes fifteen litres of milk a day, which Conita, after much consultation with various vets and after studying Daphne Sheldrick's feeding programme, weaned him over completely to an easily available product which she purchases from our local Co-op.

Raising baby rhino is an all-time consuming job and everyone in our household helps, which apart from Titius, includes my gardener Fred, who cares for Ntandane, his wife Rosina, who helps Conita, and their son Simon, who helps on weekends and who, at the moment, would like to become a game scout, of which Lapalala Wilderness presently have six, who guard and monitor the main rhino sanctuary and provide the daily browse.

Every school child who visits our environmental centre and tourist to Lapalala gets to see these two young rhino and to learn a little bit about their kind.

I guess the world, by and large, would sail on unobservantly and uncaring if rhino did disappear, but there are a growing number of people internationally who do care and don't fret if rhino are not of any value to man. What will really matter and will certainly be revealed, is that rhino are a barometer of our civilized being – if we let them go, we won't need to look too far to recognise the loss and our shame to man. □

A Wine Tasting Week-end at Kolobe

Peter Morrison describes . . .



Shortly after receiving an award from Diners Club for our excellent winelist, Kolobe Lodge invited John Mason-Gordon, the Managing director of Cellarmaster Wines to enlighten and entertain the guests of the Lodge to a weekend of wine tasting.

John's opening words were "wine drinking must be fun" and this set the scene for the opening, a champagne breakfast on the banks of the Blockland river. Some fine South African sparkling wines, such as Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel, Van Loveren Papillon Brut and Swartland demi-sec, were tasted.

Later that evening at a view point overlooking Lapalala with the sun beginning to set over the Waterberg a bottle of Pierre Jourdaan Belle Rose was opened. As the sky changed through different shades of pink, white and red wines from the estates of Buitenverwachting, Overgaauw, Rustenburg, Vergenoegd, Backsberg and Rust en Vrede were tasted.

Guests returned to the lodge to enjoy a bottle of their choice with a superb Kolobe dinner.

Regular visitors to Kolobe Lodge were amongst the guests who, from all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

Guests at the Wine Tasting:

Cyril and Sonja Lifschitz
Dereck and Sheila Howes
Robyn Taylor, Sue Walker
Ken and Joyce Cowie
Douglas and Christa Laing
Chris and Gerlindt Graham and daughter
Linda.
Uli and Uschi Mayer.

*The Surré Society
presents*



Burns Supper

*in aid of the
Wilderness Trust
Of
Southern Africa*

FRIDAY, 28th JANUARY 1994
WANDERERS BALLROOM, JOHANNESBURG

BURNS SUPPER

ENTERTAINMENT & SPEAKERS

2ND BATTALION OF TRANSVAAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND

HIGHLAND DANCE CHAMPIONS

DR JOHN HANKS

(Pres. SA Nature Foundation)

FELICIA MABUZA-SUTTLE	CLEM SUNTER
BARRY RONGE	MARK BANKS
SCOTT McRAE	ROY McALPINE
MARA LOUW-THOMPSON	CLIVE WALKER

PRODUCED BY DES & DAWN LINDBERG

★ ★ ★

GRAND CEIDLIDH FOR ALL

LOTS OF LUCKY PRIZES ! AND MORE AND MORE !

★ ★ ★

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

ALL INCLUSIVE COST: For table of 10: R1 500 donation
OR R150 per person donation

ALL PROCEEDS To Wilderness Trust of Southern Africa

Please phone: Alida or Coral (011) 453-7645/6/7 (08h30-17h00) Fax: (011) 453-7649

Please make cheques payable to: WILDERNESS TRUST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
and send to: P.O. Box 577, Bedfordview, 2008