

BUSH LIFE

NEWS FROM THE WILDERNESS TRUST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

1999 NUMBER 2.

Hi There!

Well, here we are nearly at the close of 1999 and the much bandied about "millenium" looming. I fail to see what all the fuss is about and feel sure that we will all awake on Jan 1st 2000 on the same world as we know it! Hopefully, with more and more people becoming environmentally aware, we will in fact awake to a slightly better world. It is my fervent prayer that every day we wake up to a slightly better world. That is after all the objective of the Lapalala Wilderness Environmental School - to create an awareness of our environment and the desire to care for our planet amongst the many students who pass through our doors.

FEEDBACK TIME ...

Nonhlanhla Koza, the mentorship co-ordinator from the GROWTH OF CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL (GCP) Trust has this to share with us...

"we would like to express our gratitude to the Lapalala Wilderness Trust for the wonderful partnership, support and co-operation that we have with you. Our learners had a wonderful and a very educative experience in the Wilderness School and here are some of the views from the learners on what they have learnt..."

- Care about animals, love them as I love myself and do not pollute the air.
- We must not waste water and we must not litter, and most of all we must not damage the trees, flowers and plants.
- I learned to keep my environment clean, to save water, not to throw dirt in the river and not to use too much electricity.

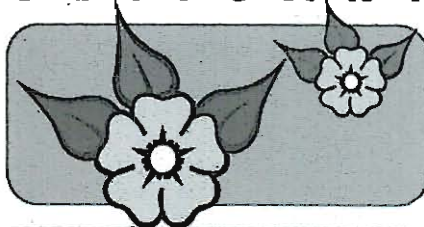
• I can make use of litter.

"The above comments are particularly significant because the people who wrote them are not exposed to nature and environmental talks. Furthermore most of them come from places where caring for an environment is something which is not discussed or emphasized".

Thank you Nonhlanhla for taking the time to give us this valuable feedback, it makes the work we do that much more meaningful.

We sincerely hope that since their exposure to the wonderful world of nature there is now much discussion and debate on these issues within their community.

OBITUARY



It was a sad day when we learned of the passing of Dr. Gwen Neuendorff.

Dr. Neuendorff's interest in matters conservation really started with the desire to protect and conserve the cheetah... to this end she joined the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and was there at the start when Clive Walker initiated the founding of the EWT in 1973. Dr. Neuendorff was a doctor of education and had the vision to realize that it is our young children who in fact will be the custodians of our precious wildlife. She gave unstintingly to the Wilderness Trust in support of the Lapalala Wilderness School and was a personal friend of both Clive and Conita Walker. A great lady who will be sorely missed.

UP-DATE

ON EDUCATION OFFICERS

We have sadly lost the services of Myles Holtshausen as a temporary officer. Myles was offered the position of Manager, Rhino Camp, Lapalala Reserve -so whilst we do not have access to Myles at the school, he is still employed by the Lapalala Reserve. We wish Myles lots of luck in his new position and trust that he will still find time to pop in to the school now and again.

Some of you might remember Madeleen van Schalkwyk - Madeleen joined us in March and was a tremendous asset to the school. She is dedicated to environmental education and brought 6 years of experience with her. Madeleen left us during July but has been lured back to the Lapalala Reserve and has rejoined in the capacity of Bush Camp manager. All our best wishes go to Madeleen and we trust that she will find great satisfaction and happiness in her new position.

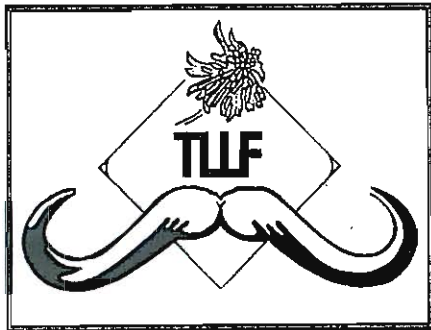


Madeleen van Schalkwyk

cont:

Maria Mphomane (nee Poee)...Yes, they finally did it. Kgotso and Maria were married on the 23rd September. Well done you two - our heartfelt congratulations and all the best for a long and happy married life. Maria has written what she hopes are her last exams and will then be entering the commercial world. She has also been temping as an educational officer at the Delta Park Environmental Centre.

Avril van Niekerk is in fact working full time for Rand Water... in our last issue we said that Avril had been seconded to Rand Water, this was incorrect. Avril has an office at the Delta Environmental Centre but she in fact works permanently for Rand Water as an environmental officer.



THE LEWIS FOUNDATION TO THE RESCUE...

The late Anthony Calvert Lewis owned Lewis Construction, which later became the giant LTA Construction. Anthony and his late wife, Elizabeth Helen, shared a common dream that was to provide encouragement and support for all aspects of nature conservation and animal protection activities. In April 1994 they nominated the Foundation as the ultimate residual beneficiary of their estate thus providing their dream with generous financial support and assuring it's ongoing success.

Through the actions of these 2 very caring people they ensured that future generations of South Africans would enjoy the pleasures of the beauty of this land and its biodiversity.

Tony and Lisette died within nine months of each other and the Foundation was vested from the 30th April 1995. The Trust is structured to provide funding for all aspects of nature conservation within the borders of South Africa, to increase the awareness of nature conservation through education, to support research projects

Music in the Mountains

The Waterberg hills were truly alive with the sound of music when Rosemary Naldon and the Buskaid Soweto String Orchestra attended an environmental awareness trail in April of this year. Initially the trail was going to take place at the Mokolo Reserve but due to building problems this was not to be. The fast action of both Clive Walker and Ken Cowie ensured that this very worthwhile trail took place and this was at the Lapalala Wilderness School. The 36 children, together with Rosemary, worked extremely hard and put in 8 to 9 hours of practice every day. The concert they gave at the Waterberg Museum and the subsequent concert at the Linder Auditorium bore testimony to the long hours of dedication and commitment that went into making both events the tremendous successes that they were.

Rosemary not only tutors these children in music - she cares for them body and soul.



Rosemary and student..duelling violins in the bush



Making those cello's talk



for the advancement of conservation and to support and develop public participation on conservation activities.

...ENTER THE GEORGE MASEBE SECONDARY SCHOOL

During May 1999 Mr Clive Walker, assisted by Mr Peter Tsheole, put together a trail for the George Masebe School. This school lies in the Bakenberg area of the Northern Province. The Lewis Foundation

generously sponsored this trail.

The five teachers accompanying the group were very involved and participated at every level. They all agreed that they had learnt a lot during the trail and that they would implement what they had learnt in their community.

The children were obedient, helpful and very eager to learn. They responded positively to the inter-active teaching technique and surprised their teachers with their enthusiasm and

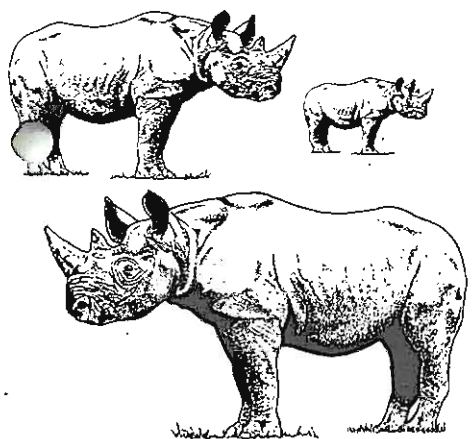
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willingness to learn. It was noted that although the pupils were diligent and attentive at school, they did not display quite the level of enthusiasm for their lessons as they did at the Lapalala Wilderness School - the teachers were of the opinion that the positive attitude adopted by the field officers toward their work played an important role in this behaviour change.

Out of the trail came the pledge by the Masebe group to start a food garden at the school. To ensure the success of this undertaking, the Wilderness trust agreed to sponsor two people to attend the Food Garden Foundation (FGF) course. Peter Tsheole took this initiative further and arranged for the FGF to come to the community and give them all instruction in successful food garden planning.

We believe that this is working well and it is the intention of the Field Officers to visit the school to see how things are coming along. We will report back in the next issue of "Bushlife".

Cakes for Rhino's



The Lower IV Class of the Roedean School held a cake sale and raised R750 which they donated towards our Rhino Fundthis is a great effort by the class and we thank them very much. We have used this money to buy three lovely books on rhino - these will be placed in the library at the Lapalala Wilderness School where they will be appreciated and enjoyed by all.

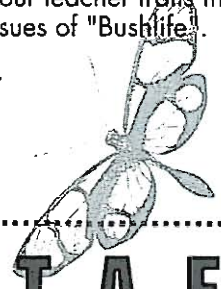
TEACHING THE TAUGHT

It is obvious to us that the only way in which more young people can become environmentally literate is to effectively include Environmental Education (EE) as part of the school curriculum. The Wilderness Trust has taken on this challenge and July saw the launch of our first Environmental Educational Teacher Workshops. At the outset we will be targeting these workshops at the teachers of the Northern Province and it is our intention to go national with these trails.

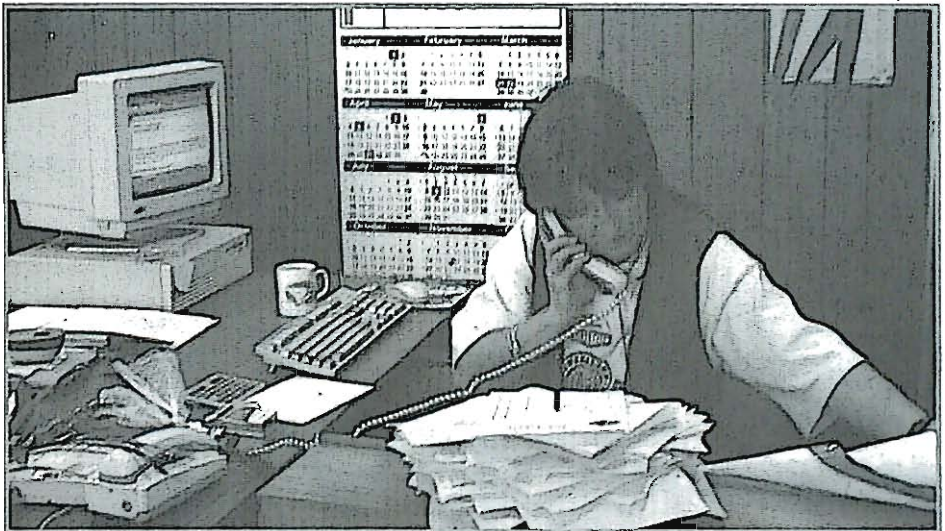
The very generous sponsorship of the

Department of Japan Fund for Global Environment and the Japan Environment Corporation has made it possible for us to equip a learning centre, sponsor lectures and assist with accommodation for a 12 month period.

We will keep you informed with regular reviews on our teacher trails in following issues of "Bushlife".

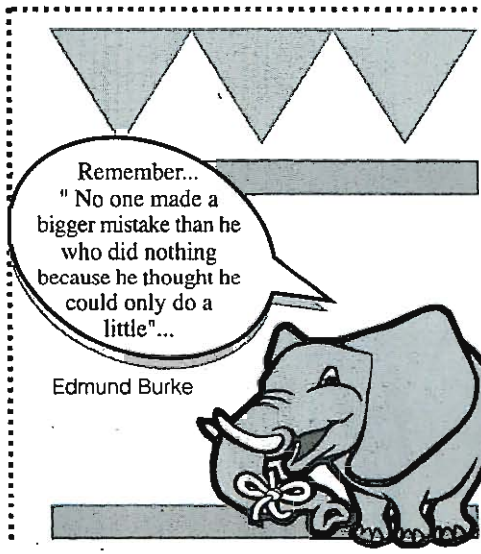


OFFICE STAFF



Rose Smith joined the Lapalala Reserve in 1989 where she worked as bush camp manager for 5 years. She left to travel and after a period in New Zealand and the Western Cape, Rose thankfully returned to the fold and took up a position at the Wilderness Trust in 1995. It is difficult to describe what Rose actually does as she does so much. Most of you will know her as the helpful, enthusiastic voice on the telephone when you call to make bookings and enquiries about the Wilderness School ...

The smiling face behind the voice... Rose's computer was kindly donated by CORPCOM OUTDOOR - a big thank you to Peter Lindstrom for making this happen.



Edmund Burke

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

YES!

I would like to become a FRIEND OF THE WILDERNESS TRUST:

Membership Fee - R80.00 per annum.

Surname Dr./Mrs./Mr. _____

First Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Childrens Names: _____

I enclose herewith a cheque for R. _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone: Bus. () _____

Home: () _____

Fax: () _____

Cell: () _____

Postal Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please send the above form together with your payment to:

The Wilderness Trust, P O Box 577, Bedfordview, 2008, South Africa.

Tel: (011) 453 7645 Fax: (011) 453 7649

BECOME A FRIEND...

By becoming a friend of the Wilderness Trust for an annual subscription of R80.00, you can help a child to discover the beauty of the South African environment - an opportunity that many young people do not have access to.

Trails conducted at the Wilderness School also emphasize the importance of personal growth and the development of self-confidence while enabling participants to learn more about conservation.

Being a friend of the Trust entitles you to special rates at Lapalala Reserve.

Greetings

The Trustees, Office Staff and Education Officers of The Wilderness Trust wish you a Very Happy Christmas - we thank you for all your support during 1999 and hope that the Y2K brings you Peace, Health and Prosperity!

Unfortunately we are not able to contact all of the schools, teachers, and students who have attended our courses - I am sure that there are many of you who would like to share a special moment you may of had there, something that maybe happened to you, or just a bit of feedback on the projects that you undertook and that you feel may assist others. Please drop Nan a line so that we can include it in our next issue

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Seasons
Greetings

