



Newsletter

October 2014

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TIMBAVATI FOUNDATION ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

The proceedings were started off by Jacques Brits, Manager of the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, who described how the Foundation had been started in response to a growing need to educate children in neighboring communities about the importance of conservation.

A recent survey has shown that the majority of people in the Acornhoek area feel that the private reserves have had a generally positive impact on their lives. Jacques feels that this has largely been due to the good work done by the Foundation.

After a colorful interlude of singing and dancing by the children, Mr Willie Terblanche, from the Dept of Education in Mpumalanga, praised the Foundation for its efforts. "We can't tell older people not to cut down trees! However we can teach the children to plant them!"

Other speakers included Deneo Chiloane, the first recipient of an award to study at the Southern African Wildlife College and now logistics Manager at the college, as well as Mr E Ndlovu, Principal of Sokisi High School. Deneo spoke about the important role children could one day play in ensuring a good quality of life.

We were honored by the presence of Mr Theo Magwagwasa Mnisi, son of the late chief Mnisi. Champagne glasses in hand, all the guests gathered around Mrs Inky de Villiers when she cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new school's entrance. Phelwana Lodge did the catering and the choir was from Manyangane High School. Thanks to all who made the day such an eventful one!



ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS AND RHINO AMBASSADORS

20 K2C Environmental Monitors and Rhino Ambassadors attended a special 5 day course presented by WESSA in June.

The Ambassadors are all from local communities around Acornhoek and are employed by the Dept of Environmental Affairs to help combat the current rhino poaching scourge.

During the course, Dr Nomvuselelo Songelwa, Senior General Manager Operations at Sanparks, paid a visit to the school and was full of praise for the Foundation.



MANDELA DAY MARATHON

On the 18th July 2014, the Timbavati Foundation together with other stakeholders organized a Mandela Day Marathon at the Mahlale High School in the Welverdiend Community.

Lazaro Sibiyi and Foster Ubisi represented the Foundation, while Orlat Ndlovu and Constantine Mzimba represented the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve in the race.

The Foundation also organized a special cleanup campaign from Orpen Gate to the Welverdiend junction as part of the 67 minutes programme.

Later there was a ceremony at the school and food parcels were handed out to underprivileged families.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM FOUNDATION AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST WT HOST WORKSHOP AT TIMBAVATI FOUNDATION ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL



On the 18 - 19 July 2014 a special workshop was held by Mr Rest Kanju of the Responsible Tourism Foundation and Kirsty Brebner from the Endangered Wildlife Trust involving church leaders from local communities.

The aim of the workshop was to get involvement and support from pastors/church leaders in helping to spread the word about the importance of conserving rhinos.

TIMBAVATI FOUNDATION COLLABORATES WITH WILDLANDS TRUST AND K2C ON EXCITING COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT

An exciting project that helps unemployed residents of local communities as well as their environment will soon get off the ground.

Named CEBA - Community Ecosystem Based Adaption, it is spearheaded by the WILDLANDS Trust.

This is how it works: a number of treepreneurs (unemployed locals from the Acornhoek community) will be given an opportunity to grow trees in recycled containers.

Their role is then to ensure that these grow. When the trees reach 1metre, WILDLANDS Trust buys the trees back from the Treepreneurs for R10 each. The funds will go to selected schools in the community.

The trees are then planted in specially targetted areas in the communities around Hoedspruit.

In addition the 5 schools involved in this project will each receive R20000.00 worth of equipment and building material for netted gardens to support this project.

So it's a real win win for the community!

The objective will be to plant 25000 trees by March 2015!



THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION SAEON WINTER SCHOOL 2014

The Foundation was honored to host the winter school for Grade 11s at the Environmental School.

The SAEON Education outreach programme seeks to encourage 14 - 17 year old students to pursue science careers at higher education institutions.

This is done via interfacing with scientists and researchers which helps them get hands-on experience in scientific research in environmental monitoring and observation.

The programme is coordinated by the National Office through local nodes. Teachers, learners and the community are the target groups.

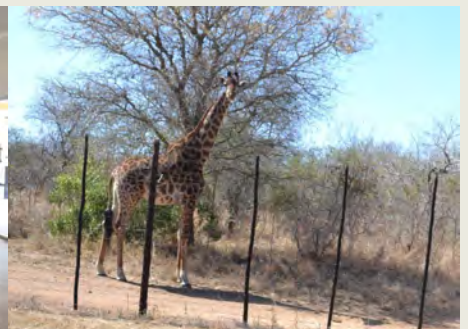


COMMUNITY PROJECT INVOLVING MERENSKY HIGH SCHOOL

Early one Saturday morning 14 excited young learners from Makwetse Primary School were brought to the Environmental School to meet 4 students from the MERENSKY High School in Tzaneen.

A special programme was set up for them including a trip to the Swadini Aventura Resort.

After breakfast, prepared by the MERENSKY volunteers, there was a brief intro to the big 5, Rhino poaching as well as other interesting facts about the environment.



On the way to Swadini, the children saw some giraffe on the Guernsey road - their excitement was palpable - they had never seen a live giraffe before! The spectacular Blyde dam and waterfall also created huge excitement.

This was the first time we've had grade 5 and 6 learners at the school and it was interesting to see their perception of conservation and also to check out what our monitors have taught them at their school.

The contrast between the sad farewells on Sunday morning vs the huge excitement on Saturday was an indication that the outing had been a success.

The principal of Makwetse, Mr Monareng, said the youngsters had really learnt a lot and loved the outing. He had asked one of them to tell the whole school at assembly about the trip.

We would like to thank all our donors, without you this would never have happened!



TEAM SPIRIT FOR SPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

On 6 Sept 2014, Acornhoek schools got together for an exciting day of competition in the netball and soccer tournaments sponsored by the Timbavati Foundation.

The purpose of the Timbavati Foundation is to promote environmental awareness among local young people, and every week 16 students and one teacher from one of 30 different schools in the Acornhoek area attend the Bush School Environmental Programme. The Foundation hopes to double that amount of schools next year.

The Foundation also gets involved in other ventures, such as borehole projects, fenced gardens, the building of toilets, and providing water tanks.

The Trustees decided to get more involved with the schools they are already working with, but on a different level.

A netball and soccer tournament was organised, in which 30 schools played against each other. The four winning soccer teams won full soccer gear and boots, and the best four netball teams netball gear and tackies.



Mdluli High School



Tladishi High School



Moholoholo High School



German S Chiloane High School

Mr. Sambo, the sports organiser from the Greenvalley, Cottondale and Manyeleti circuits, together with Joel and his dedicated team from the Timbavati Foundation, made the finals a day not to be forgotten.

In the soccer tournament, Puledi High School was the overall winner this year. Sokisi High School got a 2nd place, Masingitana High School 3rd and Magwagwaza High Schools 4th place. On top of the soccer gear, the teams were also awarded medals and trophies, and the winning team was given a weekend in the Kruger National Park, all expenses paid.

The overall winners of the netball were: in 1st place Mdluli High School, 2nd place Tladishi High School, 3rd place Moholoholo High School, and 4th place German S Chiloane High Schools. The Mdluli team will also go to the Kruger National Park for a weekend, all expenses paid. After the award ceremony the day finished with a well-earned hot meal



Puledi High School



Sokisi High School



Masingitana High School



Magwagwaza High School

FULCRUM SUPPORTS TIMBAVATI FOUNDATION

At the Insurance Institute of Gauteng's (IIG) Annual Charity Auction at The Barnyard Theatre in Cresta on the 8th of May 2014, The Fulcrum Group bid R166 000 for a three night stay at the Makanyi Lodge in the Timbavati.

The full amount was donated to the Timbavati Foundation. Fulcrum's CEO, Vaughan Jones said his purchase fit in perfectly with the event's "Born to be wild" theme. "If it's wild you're after, it doesn't get wilder than Timbavati," he said. "But seriously, the work done by the IIG is very important and makes a massive difference in a lot of people's lives. It's a pleasure to contribute where we can."

Michele Sparkes, producer at The History Channel; Rikus Kok from www.carelnolte.com; COVER magazine's editor, Tony van Niekerk; David de Villiers and James Lance from Sciam; RISKSA magazine's Blake Dyason; Gabbi Brondani, director at Urban Espresso PR; and Fulcrumeers Gavin Lill and Carel Nolte; made up the group who joined us for three spectacular days in the Timbavati between 27 and 30 August 2014. "This diverse group of people showed us that 2+2 = way more than 4. We also found great value in being able to mix, add, learn, and challenge, and being open to new and exciting experiences – whatever they may be," said Carel Nolte, Head of People & Brand at Fulcrum.

The Fulcrum team spent a great deal of their time taking in the sights and experiences in the Timbavati itself, participated in rhino tagging, and also visited the Timbavati Foundation Environmental School and Timbavati Museum – all of which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Donors and sponsors such as Fulcrum, are vital for the Timbavati Foundation, as they contribute valuably to the running and support of the Timbavati Bush School and preserving the Timbavati area. It was an absolute pleasure to host the Fulcrum team in the Timbavati, and we are extremely grateful for their generous contribution.

Fulcrum were delighted to have been able to experience the Timbavati for themselves, and to see first hand just how valuable their contribution was. "For us to have seen, first-hand, exactly where our IIG Auction donation was being used in the Timbavati, was truly something special. Big thanks must also go to all of our guests, our hosts, and the fabulous people who form part of the Timbavati Foundation – you were all amazing, and we look forward to returning to the area, soon," concluded Carel Nolte.



EARLY CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

We are in need of the following items for the Timbavati Foundation Environmental School. Any assistance towards these items will be greatly appreciated!

- Chairs
- Linen
- Stationary
- Tables
- Tumble dryer
- Microwave oven

MAJOR DONORS TO DATE

BAOBAB - R 1 Million and above

Mrs Inky de Villiers
Timbavati Private Nature Reserve

SYCAMORE - R 500 000 and above

Makanyi/ARC

MAROELA - R 250 000 and above

Deutsche Bank
Baffalo Land Safaris

LEADWOOD - R 100 000 and above

Timothy Hancock Charitable Trust
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Mr Ollivier
Mrs Benaim
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JACKALBERRY – R 50 000 and above

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HUILBOERBOON – R 25 000 and above

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Pim den Hartog
Paul Geiger
Rebus Management

We say thank you!

Help us to preserve our environment and leave a legacy for the future by making a direct donation to:

Timbavati Foundation

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Branch nr: 052752

Swift nr: SBZAZAJJ

Bank: Standard Bank Hoedspruit

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Please forward this email to a friend.

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