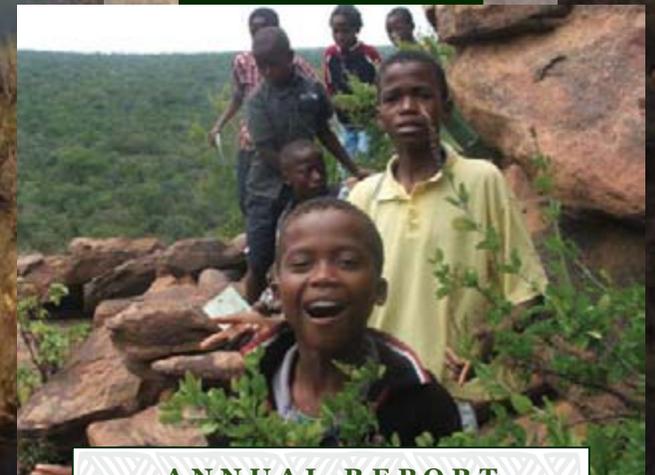


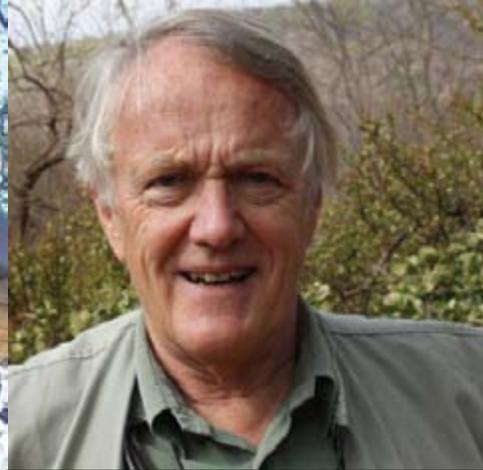
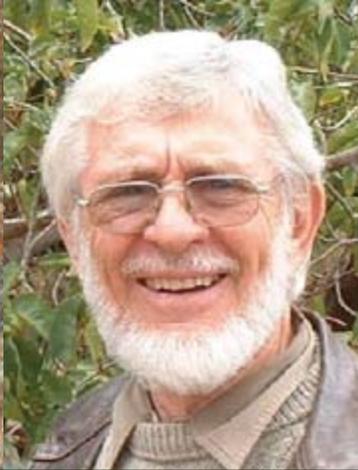


LAPALALA
WILDERNESS SCHOOL

2009



ANNUAL REPORT



PATRON'S MESSAGE

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Under the able leadership of Dr Anthony Roberts and his staff, the Lapalala Wilderness School continued to make great strides in its vital role of environmental education.

The School is, for those who pass through its portals for the first time, a life-changing experience. It is the teaching staff comprising young people from the region, who satisfy the young visitors' need to understand the complexities of our natural world. With dedication they convey the message to the adults of tomorrow.

During the past year, at the instigation of Board Member Eric Mafuna, a mentorship programme was instituted for the staff. It proved to be of great value in broadening their world views, cultural values and interpersonal relationships, thus adding to their own growth in passing on the message of environmental awareness.



The growing concerns about anthropogenic global climate change have succeeded in placing a wide range of vitally important environmental issues high up on the agenda of many of the world's leaders. For the first time, politicians are openly acknowledging that humanity must stay within the boundaries of several of the Earth's natural ecological processes, or face a catastrophe where millions of people will die when crops fail, freshwater resources dry up, and key components of the biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival are lost forever.

Reports of melting ice pouring off Greenland and Antarctica into the sea far faster than previously realised because of global warming and images of the world's leaders huddled together at the United Nations in endless wrangles to discuss how to reduce the emissions of warming gasses and move towards clean fuels seem far removed from the programmes and activities of the Lapalala Wilderness School. Understandably, such complex issues and the immediate and quantifiable consequences of inaction (such as the inundation of low-lying coastal areas) all too often lead to a feeling of despair and hopelessness. How wrong we can be.

This is where environmental education has such an important role to play because every single person can and should be making a difference to bring about a host of small changes in the way in which we interact with our natural environment and impact on the extraordinary biodiversity that should never be taken for granted. Anthony Roberts and his dedicated

team at the School have built up a deserved reputation for the excellence of the programmes available at Lapalala, a unique setting where young people and their teachers can develop a genuine passion for conserving Africa's biodiversity and move on to convey their enthusiasm and commitment to their peers and in the case of children, to their parents. There is no better place than a natural field setting to understand the workings of life's ecological processes, and to appreciate and come to understand how the myriad of our daily activities from using water, energy, and even the food we eat can and will impact on a sustainable future. We can all make a difference, no matter how small, and this is where environmental education comes into its own.

My thanks once again go to the Parker family and our other donors and board members for their support during the year. The staff at the School have put in a magnificent effort throughout 2009 at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of teaching. As we expand our outreach programmes in 2010 I know that the School will enhance its status as a role model for environmental education that is making a genuine difference.

Clive Walker
Patron

Dr John Hanks
Chairman



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



This past year has seen the Lapalala Wilderness School continue to grow and develop its relationships with schools from around South Africa. Over 3 400 children, mainly from local communities but also from private schools in Gauteng and Limpopo, visited the School in 2009.

The School aims to convey the message of conservation and sustainable development to as large an audience as possible, but it is limited in this respect by the number of beds and staff. To counter this we have put even more effort into our outreach programme, and we have run environmental workshops for teachers. The main focus of the outreach programme has been to support the Eco-Schools programmes in schools from our local communities. This has been a great success, with nine schools receiving awards through the programme in 2008 and 18 registering through the Lapalala node in 2009. The teacher training workshops, funded by the DG Murray Trust and Anglo American Chairman's Fund, are a new and very positive component of our activities. The workshops were held for combined groups of teachers from Alexandra Township and local rural communities. The trainings were hailed as "extremely important" and "of utmost importance" by representatives of the Department of Education.

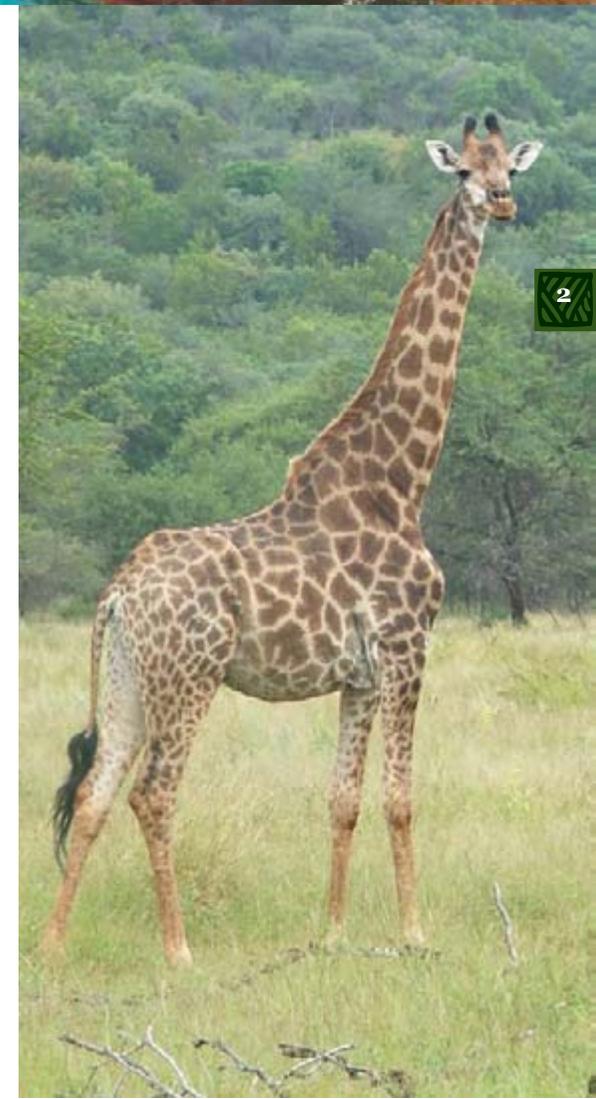
The appointment of additional staff, including that of Mashudu Makhokha as a Senior Educator, has enabled us to run more programmes through the year. To ensure that the highest standards are maintained, the School has allocated time to staff development,



with the invaluable involvement of our patron, Clive Walker. The School has also embarked on an internship programme in 2007. One of our interns, Colbert Munarini, has become a permanent employee.

Mention must be made of the continued and valued support of the Parker family without whom we would not be able to convey to our children the necessity of conservation.

Dr Anthony Roberts
Director





ACTIVITIES

Community Groups / Outward Bound South Africa / Fee-paying Schools / Tertiary Groups / loveLife Groups

From July 2008 to June 2009 the School hosted 68 groups comprising a total number of more than 3 500 individuals compared to 57 groups and 3 000 individuals the previous year.



Community Groups

Our main focus was on disadvantaged community groups from the Bakenberg area, in accordance with our mission of encouraging passion for the environment and nurturing future conservation champions. Eighty community schools were formally invited to attend courses, and almost all responded as well as a number of other *word of mouth* recommendations. Due to capacity limitations, only 31 schools from Bakenberg – a total of nearly 2 100 learners – visited Lapalala Wilderness. The significance and positive impact of the School's environmental courses are confirmed by their popularity with our community schools. We hope to target at least 8 000 learners through courses and community outreach projects annually.

Outward Bound South Africa

The joint courses of the School and Outward Bound South Africa (OBSA), which combine environmental matters with leadership and life skills, continue to be popular. Three of these were offered at the School during the year. A further five OBSA camping groups utilised the school grounds for Outward Bound activities, with a number from the Gauteng area returning for their second and third year. Our relationship with OBSA continues to expand and we hope to provide the venue for a number of community groups from the Lephalale area in the coming year.

Fee-paying Schools

Fifteen Gauteng fee-paying schools visited during the year, most of whom have attended courses at the School in past years. In an effort to reduce carbon emissions produced through travel from Gauteng to Lapalala, we have introduced a community service component that involves tree planting in order to rehabilitate old, degraded farmlands on the reserve. The continued attendance of courses by private schools is an important component of our strategy and provides much needed funds to complement donated funds that target community school groups. We have developed a relationship with Redhill School whereby a number of small groups are brought to the bush through the year for focused, intensive outdoor experience.



Tertiary Groups

The School has extended its fieldwork courses for a variety of tertiary groups. Two groups of students in Game Ranch Management at the Centurion Academy visited the School for a practical course work session as well as introduction to reserve management as an initiation to their internship year. Fourth year Environmental Management students from the University of Venda attended a week-long practical course, guided by the skills of both external and Lapalala Wilderness staff. A thoroughly enjoyed component was the trapping and identification of bats by a visiting bat expert, Dr Sandie Sowler. In accordance with our conservation leadership programme, one student from this group was selected for a three-month internship assisting with research on the reserve. Tshwane University of Technology again utilised the School for a week-long course for their second year students in Game Ranch Management.

loveLife Groups

Three loveLife groups visited as a component of the Take Back the Future initiative, launched by loveLife in 2006. The courses held at Lapalala Wilderness aim to encourage a passion for the environment, while developing confidence and life skills, including HIV/AIDS education, among our future leaders.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

With limited time and facilities at the School, the outreach component has become a key focus area in our mission to expose as many learners as possible to our message of conservation. The increase in outreach activity necessitated the appointment of Lucas Ngobeni as Eco-Schools Coordinator. Lucas, who worked as an Educator at the School for many years, has taken on his new role with great enthusiasm. Continued financial support and the generous donation of a vehicle by the Parker family have allowed more frequent community visits. Although the School has received further donations from the Stirling Foundation, we continue to seek additional funders to expand the outreach programme.



Eco-Schools

Four of the schools registered in 2008 – Marken Primary, Kgomoshiakwena Primary, Mpepule Primary and Matlou Memorial Primary – received their green flag award for the third year running. Mpepule Primary also received a well-deserved second place in the Eskom Lephalale Environmental Awards. Three of our newly registered schools, Serema High, Serupa Primary and Ntebeleleng Primary, received their bronze certificates and two of our schools, Kitty Primary and Mashamaite Secondary, received a silver award. Congratulations must go to the educators and learners involved in the projects for their enthusiasm and efforts towards looking after our environment.

In 2009, under Lucas Ngobeni's guidance, an incredible 18 schools registered for the Eco-Schools project through the Lapalala node. Although adjudication will only take place later in the year, we have great hopes for these schools and the environmental projects they have taken on.

In addition, many schools received other awards for excellence. Kitty Primary and Supi Primary were third in their respective categories at district level in the environmental competition run by the Limpopo School State of Environment Report (LISSOER). Marken Primary was proud to receive first position at district level and went on to compete at provincial level. Both Mpepule Primary and Kgomoshiakwena Primary won awards in the Tetrapak Poster competition and received money to enable them to invest in more environmental projects. Mpepule Primary also received recognition for their dedication in an article about their cultural project on marula trees, published in *WESSA EnviroKids* Vol. 30 (2) 2009.



Lucas Ngobeni was also kept busy with extra projects, including adjudicating LISSOER at both district and provincial level, and participating in a number of celebrations with schools, including Arbor Week.

Eco-Schools workshops were held at both Lapalala and host schools in the community. A workshop for Eskom Lephalale was held to provide support for schools that entered the Eskom Lephalale Environment Competition to brainstorm potential projects on local environmental issues. The School continued to work with the Moepel Community and once again hosted a workshop for members of the Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) group to expose them to their local environmental wonders and, sadly, the environmental degradation in their community. It is hoped that they will become conservation champions in their own communities and provide an example of good environmental practice for other rural communities.



TEACHER TRAINING

The majority of our programmes focus on environmental education for learners. However, we have always felt that in order to achieve our mission, two critical areas need to be addressed: principals of schools should recognise the necessity of conserving the environment, and environmental education must be incorporated into school programmes.

In March 2009, 42 principals participated in a workshop at Lapalala to discuss local environmental issues. In addition, principals were encouraged to allow their educators to attend Educator Environmental Training for the Classroom offered by the School. The workshops, which received backing from the local Department of Education, were aimed at empowering educators to successfully integrate and teach environmental education in the classroom. A total of 63 people attended three highly successful workshops over three weekends. Participants consisted of educators from local communities, Alexandra Township and members of the Department of Education and received full sponsorship from the DG Murray Trust and Anglo American Chairman's Fund. We have re-applied for funding to undertake additional workshops in 2010.



STAFF

New appointments / Staff development

New appointments

We were pleased to appoint Mashudu Makhokha as a Senior Environmental Educator at the start of 2009. We were also fortunate to host two Tshwane University of Technology interns, Kennedy Leso and Boaz Tsebe, for the practical year of their Wildlife Management course. This is a vitally important step towards creating conservation champions of the future. Both interns provided valuable contributions to both our fee-paying and community groups and will be missed in 2010.

Staff development

An important focus of the School is the development of staff in order to maximise their skills and depth of knowledge. This year we had the privilege of spending time with the founder and patron of the Lapalala Wilderness School, Mr Clive Walker, who kindly volunteered to educate staff about the natural and cultural history of the Waterberg. We visited George Masebe Reserve, Magagamatala Village, Telekishi Community Development Centre and Makapan's Valley. At each site we were met by a member of the local community, who informed us about the most important history of the area. With Mr Walker's support, we hope that these experiential learning opportunities expand and continue into the future.

With sponsorship from BirdLife South Africa, Lizzy Makgamatha and Boaz Tsebe were able to attend a bird identification course at Hoedspruit. They have been sharing their knowledge with the rest of the staff.

All staff attended a Wilderness First Aid Level I course, while the educators advanced to the Level II course.



Working at the Lapalala Wilderness School are (back row f.l.t.r.) Lizzy Phago, Boaz Tsebe, Sylvie Geerkens, Colbert Munarini, Erin Roberts, Petrus Tselana, Elizabeth Bjilana, Klaas Monare, (middle row f.l.t.r.) Dr Anthony Roberts, Paulinah Chauke, Kennedy Leso, Lizzy Makgamatha, Lucas Ngobeni, Anna Tshelane, Mashudu Makhokha, (front row) Lizzy Zulu and Maria Maotsela.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

TO THE DIRECTORS OF LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL
(ASSOCIATION INC UNDER SECTION 21)
REGISTRATION NO 2005/022175/08
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

We have audited the annual financial statements of Lapalala Wilderness School (Association Inc under section 21), for the year ended 30 June 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Scope

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes:

- examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements,
- assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and
- evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In accordance with businesses of the same size and organisation, the company's internal control systems are dependant on the concernment of the directors. Where the independent confirmation of the completeness of the accounting records and transactions were not available, we have accepted the assurance of the directors that all the transactions were reflected correctly in the company's records.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements fairly present, in all material respects, the financial position of the organisation at 30 June 2009 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Accounting Standards, appropriate to the business, and in the manner required by the Companies Act in South Africa.

Qualification

In common with similar organisations, it is not possible for the organisation to institute accounting controls over cash collections in respect of donations prior to the initial entry of the collections in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impracticable for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

Numeri Auditors

Numeri Auditors

JH Boshoff, CA (SA)
Registered Accountants and Auditors
Bela-Bela
30 August 2009

	2009	2008
INCOME		
Catering	32 824	–
Donations	1 638 777	992 530
Fees from schools	810 716	810 158
Insurance claim	9 630	–
Interest received	19 659	4 977
	2 511 606	1 807 665
EXPENSES		
Advertising	18 780	15 962
Auditor remuneration	10 431	3 848
Bad debts	–	400
Bank charges and finance costs	9 805	8 999
Board of directors – travel, meeting venues, company secretary salary	26 463	20 835
Catering supplies, cleaning materials and kitchen supplies	412 504	352 443
Computer expenses	7 836	8 325
Depreciation	26 548	11 543
Employee costs, medical expenses and uniforms	1 260 696	942 107
Entry fees Moëng and Museum visits	905	6 059
Exhibition materials and sporting equipment	26 516	17 290
First aid kits	4 421	8 50
Fuel	146 731	109 293
Lease rentals on operating lease	–	5 800
Mattresses, linen and sleeping bags	23 192	13 767
Printing and stationery	53 371	13 111
Repairs, maintenance and building improvements	285 360	186 621
Staff training	14 462	20 137
Transport teacher training workshops	26 120	–
Telephone, fax and internet	23 230	18 858
Travel & accomodation – Staff	69 081	29 188
Utilities	13 539	8 491
	2 459 991	1 793 927
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	51 615	13 738

BALANCE SHEET at 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Tangible assets	78 877	43 560
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	90 333	62 849
Total assets	169 210	106 409
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Funds		
Reserves	120 271	58 406
Retained income	8 021	18 271
	128 292	76 677
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	40 918	29 732
Total funds and liabilities	169 210	106 409



LAPALALA
WILDERNESS SCHOOL

2009
ANNUAL REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr John Hanks (Chairman)
Mr Eric Mafuna
Mr Duncan Parker
Ms Kgobati Magome
Mr Mike Gregor
Ms Fiki Fesi

COMPANY SECRETARY

Pam Barrett

PATRON

Clive Walker

STAFF

Director: Dr Anthony Roberts
Financial Manager: Sylvie Geerkens
Course Coordinator and Eco-Schools Coordinator: Erin Roberts
Eco-Schools Coordinator: Lucas Ngobeni
Senior Educator: Mashudu Makhokha
Educators: Klaas Monare, Lizzie Makgamatha, Colbert Munarini, Boaz Tsebe (intern), Kennedy Leso (intern)
Hospitality Supervisor: Lizzie Zulu
Hospitality staff: Anna Tshelane, Paulinah Chauke, Lizzie Phago, Elizabeth Bjalana, Maria Maotsela
Maintenance: Petrus Tselana

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