



LAPALALA
WILDERNESS SCHOOL





PATRON'S MESSAGE

The past year presented fitting cause for celebration at the Lapalala Wilderness School. The United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity; the year in which the School also marked its 25th anniversary.

More than 17 000 species currently face extinction throughout the world. Right here on our doorstep we are witnessing a serious threat against the African rhino. Environmental education and awareness are vital in the effort to reverse the situation. It is not just rhinos that are under threat, but our core values as human beings. The School is not just about threatened species but about developing the whole person.

Down through the years, tens of thousands of children from South Africa and from countries around the world have had the unique experience of spending time in this superb outdoor classroom. We salute all those dedicated teachers who commit themselves to the vital task of raising environmental awareness amongst our youth.

We need to care about our environment. But equally so we need to care about each other. In using the natural world to teach the value of biodiversity, we involve everyone in a collective mission to protect the world we all share.

Clive Walker
Patron



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I always find it rewarding and stimulating to see young people absorbing the very special ambience provided by field classes at Lapalala. So often it is their first time in a natural environment far removed from the distractions of populated centres.

Their wide-eyed enjoyment is evident as they take in their new surroundings, enhanced not just by what they see but also what they hear, smell and touch... senses that have been all too frequently dulled by the pollution of modern living. It is this sense of wonder, of wanting to know more about the extraordinary diversity of life that is such an important step in creating an awareness of the need for conservation. To stimulate this wonder about diversity that many will be seeing for the first time goes far beyond any initial, but nevertheless very important, aesthetic appreciation.

On such occasions I never hesitate to tell any visitors I might have with me that the mission of the School has two important facets. The first is to promote an appreciation of the importance of sustainable development and respect for the extraordinary diversity of Africa's natural world. We work to achieve this by developing and encouraging a passion and commitment to conserve nature and ecological processes. Far too many people still think of conservation as being all about conserving the large and spectacular mammals which feature so prominently in the daily press. These flagship species are indeed important and of concern, but much more significant to our quality of life and very survival is the role of biodiversity. It is this richness of life that forms the basis of our life-support systems, contributing to maintaining our water cycles; cleansing the atmosphere; contributing to soil genesis and absorbing carbon to reduce global warming; pollinating our plants and recycling nutrients, all of which of course contribute significantly to mankind's sustainable future.

Dr John Hanks
Chairman

The second leg of the mission is to identify and nurture conservation champions of the future. Here, my hope and belief is that amongst the young people exposed to the School are future leaders and conservation champions. I am reminded of lauded conservationists such as Clive Walker, and Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai – Africa's best known environmental activist, who was awarded for her outstanding environmental advocacy work in Kenya, in the face of fierce opposition. It is my fervent hope that the Lapalala Wilderness School 'incubates' champions such as these.

About 100 years ago the English author HG Wells wrote: "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe". These words ring true today, but we remain ever hopeful that the fine work of the Lapalala Wilderness School tinges them with optimism.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our donors and our board members for their support during the year. Once again, Anthony Roberts and his team have put in an outstanding effort to accommodate and inspire young people at the primary and secondary levels, and increasingly at the tertiary level. The School already has a deserved reputation for providing a genuine life-changing experience for so many of those fortunate enough to spend time at Lapalala; a first important step on the road to becoming community leaders in promoting an awareness of the imperative of conserving biodiversity.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 2010 Soccer World Cup was a showcase for South Africa that undoubtedly brought enormous benefits to the country as a whole. However, for the Lapalala Wilderness School, the soccer spectacle certainly disrupted the school schedules and challenged us to source groups that would visit Lapalala during this time.

Despite the enforced holidays, we managed to find seven community schools to attend courses during the June/July period. This is a testament not only to the Wilderness School – for the relationships we have built over the past years – but also to the schools and teachers who were committed enough to bring groups during their extended holidays.

The local community schools continue to comprise the majority of our groups and this continually challenges our financial resources. Were it not for several generous donations, we would not be able to achieve our objectives of instilling environmental values within these impoverished, rural community children. The Parker family continue to be our major donor but we are grateful that new donors, such as Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Nedbank Foundation and Transnet have generously supported our endeavours. For the second consecutive year,

the DG Murray Trust and Anglo American Chairman's Fund have funded our workshops on environmental education for teachers from Gauteng and local communities. These workshops have been so well received that we aim to make them a lasting part of our outreach programme.

The continued support of Eco-Schools in our area is a further important outreach for the School. The number of schools participating in the programme has increased from five in 2006 to 22 in 2010. The 2009 results were excellent. Of the 18 schools that we registered, all submitted their portfolios for adjudication and all received awards for the categories for which they were registered. It is critical for schools to be engaged with programmes such as this if we are to be successful in teaching children both environmental and conservation values.

Dr Anthony Roberts
Director





A C T I V I T I E S *From July 2009 to June 2010, Lapalala Wilderness School hosted a record 69 bookings from both fee-paying groups (including private schools, tertiary groups, and children with Outward Bound programmes) and local community schools.*

COMMUNITY GROUPS

In an attempt to nurture conservation champions of the future, our biggest focus has been on disadvantaged rural schools. During the year, 31 of these schools comprising 1 900 learners and 120 educators, attended courses at LWS. The continued popularity of the educational courses on offer ensured that LWS ran at full capacity even during the excitement of the soccer world cup. Many community schools took advantage of the longer school holidays to come and enjoy the Lapalala experience.

Our community outreach project continues to focus on learners whom we are unable to reach through our residential courses due to limited resources, time and capacity.

OUTWARD BOUND SOUTH AFRICA

The LWS and Outward Bound South Africa (OBSA) joint courses continue to be popular. During the year we ran two of these courses, which combine environmental matters with leadership and life skills. A further three camping groups utilised a portion of the School's 1 200 ha for OBSA activities with a number from the Gauteng area returning for their second and third year. Our partnership with OBSA is also turning to focus on disadvantaged groups from the Lephalale area.

FEE-PAYING SCHOOLS

The number of Gauteng fee-paying schools that visit LWS is increasing, with 19 schools having braved the morning traffic to come here. This figure has increased from 15 in the previous year. Most encouraging is that many of these were return groups. The relationship with Redhill School continues to grow. Throughout the year, a number of small groups are brought to the bush for a week-long focused, intensive outdoor experience.

The fee-paying groups continue to partially subsidise the rural community schools, which are our primary focus.

TERTIARY GROUPS

With the growing research component on Lapalala Wilderness Reserve, LWS continued to extend its fieldwork courses for tertiary institutions. Once again, the School hosted two groups of students from Centurion Academy as part of their Diploma in Game Ranch Management. As in the past, fourth-year Environmental Management students from the University of Venda attended a week-long practical course. Through this we placed two interns, George Sekonya and Douglas Munyai, with research projects on Lapalala Wilderness to expose young scientists to field work. We also hosted a group of Nature Conservation students from UNISA. As in previous years, LWS made use of a number of external experts who generously offered their time and expertise to the School, including Richard Wadley (geology), Professor Lyn Wadley (archaeology), Mark Thompson (remote sensing) and Dr Sandie Sowler (chiropterans).

LOVELIFE GROUPS

Groups from loveLife 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

As in 2009, LWS was fully booked throughout the year. This highlights the importance of our community outreach component that ensures more learners and educators are exposed to environmental education.

ECO-SCHOOLS

Lucas Ngobeni continues to grow in his role of Eco-Schools Coordinator and has increased the number of Eco-Schools from 18 to 22, making us one of the largest nodes in the Limpopo Province.

All 18 of our schools that registered in 2009 completed and submitted excellent portfolios, and all received awards of varying status. The adjudication was held at LWS. Of the schools registered through Lapalala Node, seven received bronze flags, two silver flags, three green flags and six gold certificates – a massive achievement and a testament to the Eco-Schools' hard work.

Our 22 schools comprise nearly 200 educators and an impressive 6 000 learners. This is stretching our current capacity for support, as the Eco-Schools Coordinator needs to travel 1 000 to 1 500 km a week. Although adjudication will only take place later in the year, we have great hopes for these schools (both old and new). Adjudication is especially important for five of our Eco-Schools (Kgomoshiakwena Primary, Mpepule Primary, Sekanekamoyi Primary, Marken Primary and Matlou Memorial Primary) who are attempting to gain their International flag in 2010. Eight of our Eco-Schools have also been chosen to take part in the HSBC-sponsored Climate Change Initiative. This project requires the schools to commit to reducing carbon emissions within the school and surrounding community.

In addition, a few of our schools received special recognition for environmental excellence. Marken Primary once again wowed the adjudicators at the Limpopo Schools State of the Environment Report, winning the regional sections and going on to compete at national level. Mpepule Primary and Matlou Memorial Primary proudly received recognition for their good environmental work in the Scotland Eco-

Schools Newsletter and South African Eco-Schools Newsletter. Both Mpepule Primary and Kgomoshiakwena Primary won prizes in the Tetrapak poster competition, using the proceeds to improve school facilities. Ms. Mam Maluleke from Ntebeleleg Primary won the 2009 Stars in Education Award.

Eco-Schools workshops were held at six new schools to introduce them to the workings of the programme.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LWS hosted a number of workshops with communities around the Masebe Nature Reserve, in conjunction with Limpopo Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET). These workshops served to introduce community members to environmental education, in an attempt to help them manage their natural resources including the Masebe Nature Reserve, in which they are stakeholders. Communication between LWS and these communities is ongoing. Seven villages have formed Eco-clubs to manage human impact on the environment in an attempt to preserve natural resources.



In 2009, we introduced educator workshops to help principals and educators recognise the vital need for environmental education. The workshops were a huge success with both educators and the Department of Education.

"Educator workshops are very important, because teachers and the Department of Education saw EE as a separate entity, but then attending these workshops has shown that it can be incorporated in all learning areas."

– SINDY RADLY, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (GAUTENG)

We are extremely grateful to the DG Murray Trust and Anglo American Chairman's Fund for their ongoing support for this initiative. This support will enable us to host further workshops this year.

In July 2010, we hosted a principal's workshop which was attended by 35 principals from the Bakenberg community. The seminar, entitled "The importance of environmental education in schools", provided the platform for the introduction of the three educator workshops scheduled for later in 2010.

TEACHER TRAINING





STAFF NEW APPOINTMENTS

Lapalala Wilderness School was delighted to welcome two new staff members during the year under review. Frans Phago joined the maintenance team and Boaz Tsebe was appointed to a one year post as an Educator at LWS. Boaz completed an internship through LWS in 2009, and will continue to study for his BTech degree in Game Ranch Management at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).

In line with our mission of nurturing conservation champions, we were pleased to host two interns from the TUT: Chantelle Van Heerden and Mapula Mokwela.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Lizzy Makgamatha and Boaz Tsebe continue to further their interest in birds. Over the past year, they completed three courses through BirdLife South Africa. Colbert Munarini was proud to receive his Honours degree in Environmental Management from the University of Venda, having completed his thesis on the Cost/Benefit Analysis of Bush-clearing on Lapalala Wilderness Reserve.

In May 2010, Lucas Ngobeni attended a course on Teacher Education Training in Tzaneen. The course provided valuable insights into how we can support the educators in our community schools.

NEW ARRIVALS

LWS was also thrilled with the arrival of the newest generation of environmental warriors: Maya Rony (Naledi) Roberts (11 February 2010) and Thendo Grace Makhokha (6 July 2010).



Lapalala's dedicated staff team includes (back row f.l.t.r.) Anthony Roberts, Colbert Munarini, Petrus Tselana, Boaz Tsebe, Sylvie Geerkens, (middle row f.l.t.r.) Lucas Ngobeni, Maria Maotsela, Elizabeth Bjalana, Paulinah Chauke, Mapula Mokwele (intern), Frans Phago, Mashudu Makhokha, (front row f.l.t.r.) Lissy Phago, Anna Tshelane, Lizzy Zulu, Lizzy Makgamatha, Chantelle Van Heerden (intern) and Erin Roberts.



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 2010

We have audited the annual financial statements of Lapalala Wilderness School (Association Inc under section 21), for the year ended 30 June 2010. 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 2010 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 2010

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
INCOME		
Catering	3 167	32 824
Donations	1 689 390	1 638 777
Fees from schools	962 297	810 716
Insurance claim	–	9 630
Interest received	10 233	19 659
	2 665 087	2 511 606

EXPENSES		
Advertising	–	18 780
Auditor remuneration	11 788	10 431
Bank charges and finance costs	10 308	9 805
Board of directors – travel, meeting venues, company secretary salary	17 631	26 463
Catering supplies, cleaning materials and kitchen supplies	364 337	412 504
Computer expenses	7 593	7 836
Depreciation	34 087	26 548
Employee costs, medical expenses and uniforms	1 438 783	1 260 696
Entry fees Moëng	–	905
Exhibition materials, educational resources and sporting equipment	2 406	26 516
First aid kits	755	4 421
Fuel	118 110	146 731
Mattresses, linen and sleeping bags	21 922	23 192
Printing and stationery	39 392	53 371
Repairs, maintenance and building improvements	86 629	285 360
Donated Library Mpepule Farm School	23 650	–
Staff training and mentorship	5 497	14 462
Transport teacher training workshops	6 080	26 120
Telephone, fax and internet	23 121	23 230
Travel & accommodation – Staff	3 064	69 081
Utilities	17 698	13 539
	2 232 851	2 459 991

Surplus for the period	432 236	51 615
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BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Tangible assets	65 478	78 877
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	546 038	90 333
Total assets	611 516	169 210

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES

Funds		
Reserves	140 957	120 271
Retained income	419 571	8 021
	560 528	128 292

Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	50 988	40 918
Total funds and liabilities	611 516	169 210

Please note: The full financial statements are available on request from Lapalala Wilderness School.



LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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: Lizzie Makgamatha, Colbert Munarini, Boaz Tsebe
Mapula Mokwele (intern), Chantelle van Heerden (intern)
Hospitality Supervisor: Lizzie Zulu
Hospitality staff: Anna Tshelane, Paulinah Chauke, Lizzie Phago,
Elizabeth Bjalana, Maria Maotsela
Maintenance: Petrus Tselana, Frans Phago

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Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
DG Murray Trust
Nedbank Foundation

THUTLWA (R50 000 – R100 000)

Transnet Foundation

THOLO (R20 000 – R50 000)

Anglo American Chairman's Fund
WESSA Eco-Schools

PITSI (R10 000 – R20 000)

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