



**WILDERNESS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER**

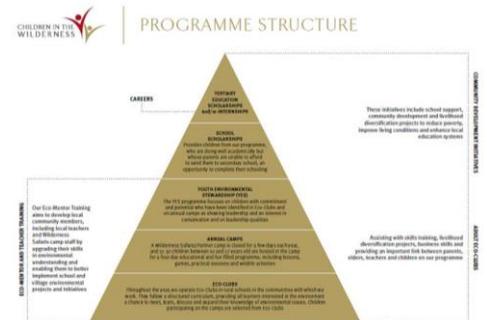
THIRD QUARTER 2017



INTRODUCTION

Our third quarter started with a bang as the Tour de Wilderness Team and Children in the Wilderness finalised plans for the annual Nedbank Tour de Tuli. This year's Tour was a huge success, and saw 255 cyclists ride a total of 248km over four days.

An element of our programme structure, is our **Adult Eco-Clubs**. These clubs focus on assisting community members with skills training, livelihood diversification projects and business skills. They also provide an important link between parents, elders, teachers and children on our programme. This quarter saw Adult Eco-Club Training taking place in the Zambezi Region, where women's groups were trained in sewing projects and small business skills. Click on the image to see the [Children in the Wilderness Programme Structure](#).



A few of our sponsors – Mother Bear, Pack for a Purpose and The Rosemary Pencil Foundation had a busy quarter, too, visiting our Regions. The quarter finished off with annual camps, Eco-Mentor training, a march for elephants and rhinos and our students graduating from the Southern African Wildlife College.



Thank you to all our donors, staff, partners and volunteers who ensure that our programme continues to grow, reaching more children, more often and more positively. A special thank you to all the cyclists and volunteers who pledged extra donations to Children in the Wilderness on the last night of the Nedbank Tour de Tuli: we sincerely appreciate it and thank you for helping us make a difference!

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COUNTRY NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA

The Great Wilderness Knit-Off in Celebration of Nelson Mandela Day

In celebration of Nelson Mandela Day, Bongani Baloyi (CITW Regional Programme Coordinator and Wilderness Safaris Culture Coordinator) drove a knitting project in the Johannesburg Wilderness Safaris offices.

Nelson Mandela Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday.

By devoting 67 minutes of their time – one minute for every year of Mr Mandela's public service – people can make a small gesture of solidarity with humanity and a step towards a global movement for good. The office was encouraged to pick up a ball or two of wool and a pair of needles from Bongani, and had a good month to set to work on knitting scarves for the children at a day care centre in Alexandra Township.

On the 18th July, the Wilderness Safaris Lounge was buzzing with budding knitters. A few experienced knitters helped the novices cast their wool onto their needles (or, as was heard in said lounge "put the string on the sticks"). The idea was to celebrate together on Mandela Day, and it was wonderful to have a constant flow of knitters throughout the day. We even had a few gentlemen join in who took the task very seriously.



In the end, 115 scarves were knitted – an incredible show of kindness, generosity and love by all those involved. On the 19th July, Bongani Baloyi, Bokang Shopane (CITW), Christina Schaddach (Wilderness Safaris) and Lisa Witherden (CITW) visited Ntataise Day Care Centre and Mafube A Hosasa Orphanage Home in Alexandra to hand over the boxes of scarves. Patricia runs both of these centres, and is making a real impact by caring for the children in her community. Patricia, her team and the children welcomed us through singing, and were overjoyed with the beautiful scarves. There was great excitement as the children called out all the different colours of the scarves as they came out of the boxes! Bongani said that "The children and their teachers loved the scarves – they did not want us to leave!"

