



**WILDERNESS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

FOURTH QUARTER 2016



INTRODUCTION

The last three months of 2016 proved to be some of our busiest, with most regions holding their annual Children in the Wilderness camps, in between Eco-Club activities, community development projects, training and many other exciting initiatives.

We held our second annual Tri-Nations Camp at Tshugulu Lodge in Mapungubwe National Park in South Africa. This brought together children from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, for four days of learning and fun. The aim of the Tri-Nations camp is part of an agreement to give back to the communities through which the Nedbank Tour de Tuli (CITW fundraising event) cycle ride traverses.

It was also during this final quarter, that our beautiful Children in the Wilderness video was shot in Botswana. The video can be viewed on our website here: <http://www.childreninthewilderness.com/about-us/what-is-children-in-the-wilderness/> (a heads up – you might need to keep your Kleenex handy for this). We are exceptionally proud of this wonderful showcase of Children in the Wilderness.

In March 2017, the second edition of our Eco-Stars Magazine will be coming out. The Eco-Stars magazine is packed full of information on some of our partners, as well as information on our main fundraising event - the Nedbank Tour de Tuli. We take a look at our Eco-Mentors, Eco-Club members and plenty of other inspiring stories from Children in the Wilderness.



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. Please don't forget to like Children in the Wilderness on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Childreninthewilderness?fref=ts> for regular updates and heart-warming stories.

SOUTH AFRICA

Blankets for Mandela

On 18th July 2016 Wilderness Safari's Staff took part in the "Blankets for Mandela" campaign to commemorate the life of the legendary Nelson Mandela.

Over 250 squares were knitted and then crocheted into 8 beautiful blankets. The production of soft toys was commissioned and funded by Barbara Warrilow from Tucson Arizona, so we extend a big thank you to her. These, together with other goodies and soft toys, were handed over by the CITW team and three Wilderness Safaris staff members, to the Dzulani orphanage home in Vosloorus, south of Johannesburg on the 20th December. A special thank you goes to Michelle Puddu who donated 4 extra blankets and who also led the crocheting project.



The Gift of Sight – Partnership between Rocktail Camp and Flying for Life

"It's so colourful!" Those were Mr Mphika Nlonzi's words to Rocktail Camp, when he tried on his first pair of glasses and looked around the rolling hills of his Local Community, KwaMpukane.

On Saturday 3rd December 2016, two Optometrists from Nelspruit, Wim Lottering and Bonita, Paul and Kathy Middleton from Mercy Air, flew into Rocktail with all the necessary equipment and glasses to see 200 people.

On arrival at the community hall there were already about 60 people waiting, people who, like Mr Nhlonzi, never knew what it is like to see clearly, or to be able to read clearly.

One by one, everyone was seen by the optometrists, getting their eyes checked, issuing glasses and giving advice and information.

Even one of the Rocktail Camp staff members, Thanda, received a pair of reading glasses.

At the end of a very successful and emotional day, nearly 100 people had been seen, including Rocktail Camp staff members, and children. Nearly 80 pairs of glasses were handed out.



