



# Youth in Conservation

## JLMT OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Engaging Youth in Eco Conservation
- ▶ Supporting other wildlife projects
- ▶ Involving the business community, schools and individuals.

## FUNDRAISING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Introduction

Jonny Lowe was a keen environmental conservationist in whatever he did, active in planting indigenous trees and other initiatives. After his death, in his memory, the Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust's Trustees, who included his widow, Jenny Lowe, and son, Peter, unanimously decided to dedicate the Trust's resources to "*engaging youth in eco-conservation.*" The trustees volunteer their time and travel costs with only a part time administrator, Shirley Ward, being remunerated. All funds raised are deployed to fulfil the mission.

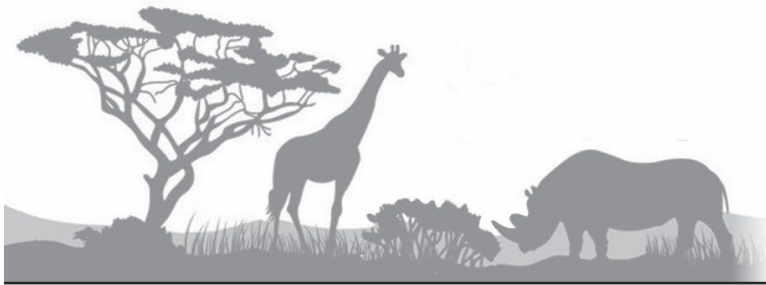
### Activities

The activities extend for students from pre-primary school level through high school and teachers of poorly resourced schools. They include:

- Increasing the awareness of youth of the extinction threat from rhinoceros poaching and supporting rhino conservation initiatives.
- The "*Ifa Letho*" (Our Heritage) programme - sponsoring and organizing educational outings to a conservation farm and Weenen Game Reserve where 12 high school students are hosted in a rustic camp with a convenor and a teacher chaperone/assistant. Efforts are made to achieve a balanced diversity of students' gender and colour (See Appendix 1).
- As an addition to the Ifa Lethu programme, sponsoring and organising modified outings to Weenen Game Reserve for teachers from poorly-resourced schools.
- Educational workshops for teachers and primary school children from poorly-resourced schools, exposing them to environmental education possibilities, providing reading material and using simple, low-cost materials and practical examples.
- Increasing awareness of environmental issues and raising of funds with an annual Golf Day competition at Victoria Club, Pietermaritzburg. It includes a raffle with prizes donated by local business and other support from business.

An annual budget is shown in Appendix 2.

Some of the trust's activities are outlined in Appendix 3, a newsletter.



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## APPENDIX 1

### THEMES FOR JLMT SPONSORED IFA LETHU EXPERIENCES

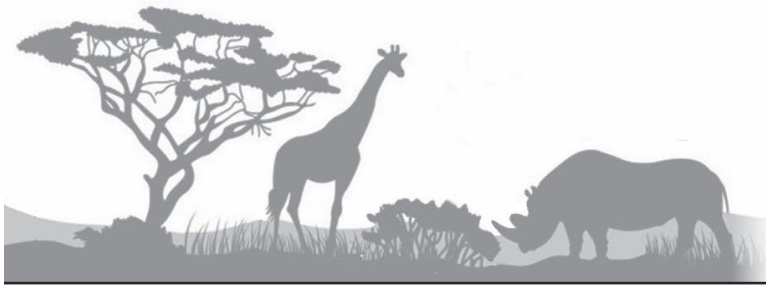
#### INTRODUCTION

In order for the JLMT to fulfil its environmental education mandate and achieve its goals, students will experience various themes on outings and in presentations. In broad terms the themes attempt to:

- Expose students to a good breadth of knowledge and in-field, interactive experience. Emphasise the importance of a conserved, biodiverse environment's contribution to a decent, healthy, human future in mind, body and spirit. Presentations include climate change, uses and ethics of hunting, species and habitat conservation (e.g. rhino), game reserve management and regenerative agriculture.
- Emphasise the importance of students taking lifetime responsibility for their environment by action, example and leadership. Crucial career and lifestyle choices are being made at this age.
- Require each student to prepare a brief talk and address questions from others on an environmental issue of their choice
- Require each student to submit a 1-page written report on the personal value of their experiences and to score their experience in answer to a few questions.

#### THEMES

- 1 Conservation of endangered species using the rhinoceros as an iconic, high-profile example.
- 2 Climate change.
- 3 Importance of conservation of habitat, biodiversity and soil in wild, agricultural and urban settings. Farm and nature reserve visits are used to provide examples wherever possible.
- 4 Using field guides and experts on drives and walks to develop skills in identification and appreciation of various life forms and their synergistic interdependence.
- 5 Expose students to eco-philosophical and eco-spiritual ideas.
- 6 Waste management - reusing, reducing and recycling. Catering and disposal of waste on outings will serve as examples.
- 7 Challenges encountered in nature reserves and how they are managed.
- 8 Student environmental presentations and discussions.
- 9 Students solving environmental problems in teams of three and reporting back to the group.



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## PROBLEM SOLVING

- 1 Stabilize and reduce population within a human rights framework.
- 2 Process and dispose of human corpses in an environmentally positive, affirmative way.
- 3 You are 35 years old and have the resources to build your family a house. Outline environmentally affirmative designs for your house.
- 4 List features of a garden with best possible environmental outcomes.

## PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you make an effort to buy locally-produced food and drink?

Can you increase the amount of raw, fresh, uncooked food you eat?

Are you thrifty and simple in the use of toiletries, cosmetics, hair wash and care etc?

Do you walk when you can? (E.g. go upstairs instead of taking a lift).

Do you take 10-minute, 35-litre showers or shorter and less with lower flow rates?

Do you switch off lights when you don't need them?

Do you make a daily effort to appreciate natural beauty outside? Our wildlife? Trees? Birds?

Recognise domestic and wild animal rights to enough habitat, fresh air, clean water and food?

## HOME AND GARDEN

Do you put on warmer clothes or turn up the heater?

Do you use a fan instead of an air conditioner when it does the job?

Do you boil just the cup of water you need or boil much more than you need?

Does your garden grow any food – fruits, nuts, vegetables?

Do you grow S African trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers to support SA birds, bees, beetles, bugs and butterflies in all seasons?

Could you replace some of your bio-uniform grass lawn with biodiverse food and shelter plants with less mowing and fuel use?

Does your garden refuse get composted on site or sent to the dump and wasted?

Are poisons used in your garden and home – fungicides, herbicides, and rat, snail, and mole killers?

Could you lessen or eliminate them?

## SCHOOL

Is paper use limited? Are both sides consistently used?

Could there be less lawn and more trees and shrubs in your school grounds?

Does your school have a South African plant policy for its grounds?

Could your school use less inorganic fertilizer and poisons on its grounds?

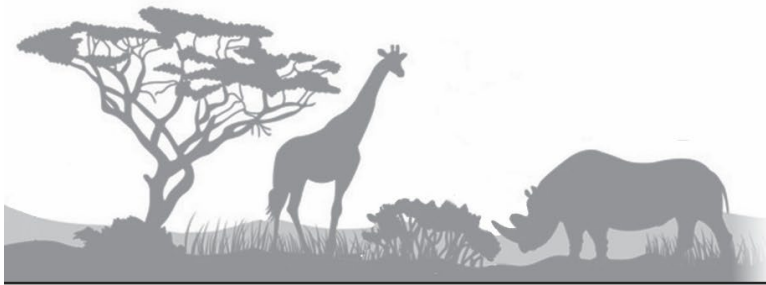
Does your school practise three Rs properly – REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Will your career be environmentally affirmative? What defines an environmentally-affirmative economist?

## Is your life economically, socially, and environmentally affirmative?

Do you ask yourself if your economic behaviour is affirmative? Mostly we do. Do you use your money wisely without waste? Do you budget your money and allocate some to others?

Do you fill all your needs but not all your wants? Do you save for things you need?



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Do you ask yourself daily if your behaviour is socially affirmative? Mostly we do. Do you treat others as you would like them to treat you? Do you help people in trouble? Speak the truth?

Do you ask yourself daily if your behaviour is environmentally affirmative? Mostly we don't. Start today. Continue for the 60 to 75 years you have left.

## CONCLUSION

Depending on constraints of time and availability of expertise not all themes will be covered. The JLMT will however try to ensure as much breadth and depth as possible for each student group.

## APPENDIX 2

### Expenses for one Ifa Lehu Excursion

Large bus to transport pupils/teachers	ZAR 10,500.00
Rustic accommodation at the Game Reserve	ZAR 2,500.00
Food & refreshments students and staff	ZAR 6,000.00
Speaker/specialist costs	ZAR 5,000.00
Staff gratuity	ZAR 1,500.00
Caps, badges etc for students	ZAR 1,400.00
Printing of booklets and worksheets	ZAR 250.00
WiFi/Bluetooth Projector	ZAR 5,500.00
Screen for Presentations	ZAR 1,500.00
Total in ZAR	ZAR 34,150.00
Total in USD	USD 1,811.67
Total for a minimum of 8 excursions	USD 14,493.37

**APPENDIX 3** shown on the following pages.

# Engaging Youth in Eco Conservation



NEWSLETTER 2022 • Issued February 2023

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Engaging Youth in Eco Conservation;
- ▶ Supporting WildTrust and Project Rhino KZN
- ▶ Enlisting support for these initiatives from the business community, schools and individuals.

## DEVELOPMENTS

We welcome Nigel Tatham as a Trustee on our Board, together with Susan Pyne-James and Prof. Mark Laing as Associates. They have already made a positive contribution to our forward planning programme, and we look forward to working together.

A new dimension has been added to our highly successful Ifa Lethu training camps at

Weenen: this is a course for teachers which proved very popular. We will in future also be able to offer more courses to primary schools through the good offices of Susan Pyne-James who is well versed in running these.

The Nyandu Bushcamp continues to offer an excellent venue for much of our work; some of the tents are however

due for replacement and we will attend to this as soon as possible. Recently we provided new projection equipment for lectures. These are typical of our maintenance responsibilities and are the reason for our fund-raising events – for which your continue support, particularly of the Golf Day, will be greatly appreciated.

*Keith Olivier, Chairman JLMT*



*Peter and learners at Mearns farm*

The Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust (JLMT) is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) – Reference number 930054021



THE JONNY LOWE MEMORIAL TRUST

# Project for Learners

## Our Ifa Lethu Project for Learners

### How do we achieve our goals?

Our training programme for high schools is designed and presented by highly experienced conservationists such as Dr Peter Ardington and Prof. Mark Laing.

- They conduct 4-day courses and field excursions for Grade 10/11 learners at the Weenen Nature Reserve. These excursions are fully funded by the Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust.
- The Weenen Nature Reserve falls under the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The Officer in Charge is Frik Lemmer, with whom we have a constructive and close relationship, as with his staff and the Honorary Rangers.



- Our base of operations at the Reserve is the Nyandu Bushcamp. Over the years we have made, and continue to make, significant financial investment in the rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance of the camp.
- Each excursion to Weenen is limited to a maximum of 12 learners and two educators. The educators participate in all activities while also acting as chaperones.
- Schools which have participated include: Glenwood, Hillcrest, St Charles College, St John's, Alexandra, Maritz-

burg College, Russell, The Wykeham Collegiate, St Anne's, Howick, Carter, and GHS.

- Candidates are selected by the schools and should be learners who have shown a keen interest in environmental/conservation issues and display leadership potential.
- Pre-course materials are sent to learners. They are required to familiarise themselves with the content to enable them to participate in the activities at the Reserve.
- For 2023 we plan to hold 5 excursions to Weenen.

### What does our programme consist of?

Presentations and debates are held, covering topics such as climate change, the pollution of our seas and rivers, over-population, food scarcity, depletion of our water sources, destruction of our wetlands, the loss of our flora and fauna, the destruction of our forests, and agricultural soil extinction.

The focus of our Ifa Lethu Project programme is to explore some of these major environmental challenges with the learners, and to create an awareness amongst them of the serious problems facing our planet. This is done through specific presentations designed to explore some of the challenges in more detail and to stimulate debate through group work and feed-back.

Three Ifa Lethu trips were held in 2022.

Learners are encouraged to look critically at their own home, school, and community environments and to come up with positive actions to help alleviate environmental problems in their spheres of influence.

# Project for Teachers

## Our Ifa Lethu Project for Teachers

Our 3-day inaugural Ifa Lethu Project excursion for ten teachers to the Weenen Nature Reserve in October 2022 was a resounding success. Thanks go to Amy Webster and Karen McKenzie for the big tasks of selecting candidates, communicating with them, persuading Michaelhouse to provide transport, and helping everything run smoothly at the Nyandu Bushcamp.

The excursion programme was similar to that used for the learners except that the delivery thereof and discussions were at a teacher level.

Phineas Ngobese from the Weenen Nature Reserve contributed to the success of the venture through his introductory talk, assisting with two

game drives and especially for sharing his excellent indigenous knowledge and experiences in IsiZulu with the teachers.

At the end of the programme the teachers graded the presentations and activities most positively, ranging between 85% and 96%.

Further excursions for teachers will be a regular feature in future.



## BOOKLET PROJECT Launched

We presented a new educational project designed for primary school children – the stage at which a love of nature and conservation concepts must be fostered.

This new venture came about when the Principal of St Martin's Pre-Primary school in Durban gave the JLMT the publishing rights for a set of conservation stories created and illustrated by her pupils over the last few years. The stories are highly entertaining and are a positive means of stimulating enthusiasm in the minds of young people to conserve our wildlife and our natural environment. Indeed, even adult readers have expressed their pleasure.

We were able to donate 1 440 sets (of 4) books to needy schools in KZN. To extend our work and to reach as wide an audience as we can – particularly un-

der-resourced state schools – we value your support and greatly appreciate the sponsorship of **Resilient**. The books make a lovely present for 6 to 10 year olds, and donations will be used to supply children in under-privileged schools with free copies. Donations in excess of R500 qualify for 18A Tax Certificates.



# The JLMT Golf Day

## The JLMT Golf Day, 6 May 2022

The JLMT Golf Day is the annual fundraiser for the Trust's Projects for educating young people about conservation and environmental issues. The event is held at the Victoria Country Club and is a fun 4-ball Alliance.

Thanks are due to our major sponsors – **Resilient**, **The Witness**, and all other sponsors, donors of prizes, and of course, the players.

The winners of the 4-ball Alliance were (pictured, right, with Jenny Lowe) B. Martin, P. Trimborn, K. Ladbrook and C. Cordier.

The raffle, which is part of the Golf Day, offered wonderful prizes – two nights at Ndaka Safari Lodge for two people (M. Ellis); a return flight to Johannesburg by Airlink (P. Hiza);

and a R5000,00 voucher from Ardmore (F. Hedderwick). All very generous and popular prizes.

We look forward to our next event on 9 June 2023.



2022 Golf Day Winners

### Contact Details

**Postal address:** K. Olivier c/o Private Bag X5, Cascades 3202

**Email:** adm.jlmt@gmail.com **Tel:** 083 321 3997 or K. Olivier: 083 280 3965

### Donations

Each excursion costs between R10,000 and R25,000. Donations of R1 000+ qualify for 18A Tax Receipts. NOTE: It is essential that you include your contact details and physical address with your donation in order that we can send you receipts or Tax certificates.

### Banking Details

**EFT:**

**A/C Name:** Jonny Lowe Memorial Trust

**Bank:** Grindrod Bank Limited

**Branch:** 584000

**A/C No:** 11000065441

**Reference:** Youth + Name (Personal or Business)

**Trustees:** K. Olivier; J. Lowe; P. Lowe; D. Ryder; P. Ardington; N. Tatham  
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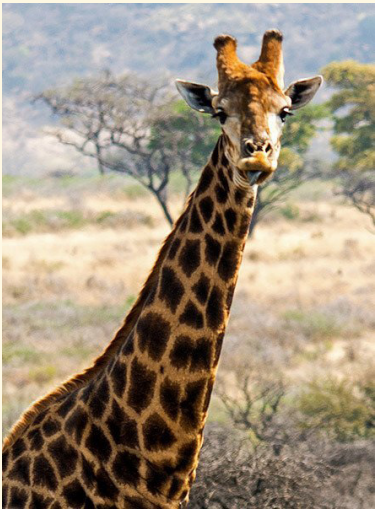
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ANNUAL  
**YOUTH IN CONSERVATION  
GOLF DAY**

**JONNY LOWE MEMORIAL TRUST**

*Engaging Youth in Eco Conservation*



**R3 500 per 4-ball**

Includes green fees, competition fees, 2 carts and the prize-giving function

**Individuals:** R400pp includes green fees, competition fees and prize-giving function

**SHOTGUN START  
10h30 for 11h00**

**4-Ball Alliance**

Booking and information:  
VCC Pro Shop: 033 347 1394  
or [jenlealowe@gmail.com](mailto:jenlealowe@gmail.com)  
083 785 7157



**Victoria Country Club  
FRIDAY  
9 JUNE 2023**



**The Witness**

Proceeds in aid of  
Youth in Eco Conservation  
P.B.O. 930054021



18A Tax certificates issued for  
donations of R1 000 or more