

Monday 9th October 2006

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 1st International Burns Jamboree was held at Constitution Hill Cultural Precinct, the venue provided by Mr. Peter Wareing, Mr. Shahindran Moonieya, Ms. Semakaleng Tlali and Mrs Mmabatho Mokwena. It was attended by honoured guests, World Burn Foundation of Southern Africa staff and burn survivors from Canada, England, Wales and South Africa. The Opening Ceremony was arranged by Mrs Sharon Jones, and the Master of Ceremonies was Mr Colin Lee, Executive Director of WBFSA.



The children arrived amidst much shouting and excitement, waving the respective flags of their countries, in four fire trucks sounding their air horns and sirens. These were provided by Emergency Management Services and kindly facilitated by the Director of Special Projects Mrs. Mekgwe, Mr. Pat Cass and Mr. Harry Annandale.

Participants were entertained by the choir of St. David's Marist College, The Marcellin Singers, conducted by the inimitable Mr. Gareth Dry. The choir sang four vibrant welcoming songs including Imbube (The Lion sleeps tonight).

Also providing melodious and accoustically moving music was the St. Stithian's Marimba band, enthusiastically led by Mr. Mike Sibanda.



After the inspiring and moving entertainment and a "snack attack" for the children of the choir and band, the participants left for the Magalies Retreat. Pizzas for lunch were enjoyed by all on the bus. The bus was kindly sponsored for the whole week by the Department of Social Development, Directorate Aged and Disabilities, thanks to Mrs. Leah Smith.



It was indeed a rousing start to the first International Camp.

Tuesday 10th October 2006.

The day started (after the unforgettable fire drill, by our meticulous safety and security officer, Johnny White) with exercises led by the indefatigable Bianca Annandale, which warmed the blood and enthusiasm of all on camp.



Next was the highly exciting and educational snake and reptile talk by the knowledgeable botanist and Marian College Principal, Mr. Gary Norton. Children and adults alike overcame initial fears and ignorance of reptiles after being informed of their place and usefulness in nature.



The rest of the day was spent team- building, using rotating activities; the obstacle course, water games and shelter building.



The day was completed under the stars in the boma having a traditional braai and being entertained around the camp fire by African storytelling. We were held spellbound by the talents of Mudapotho Productions, a theatrical group headed by Mr. Macks Papo, a local "soapie" star.

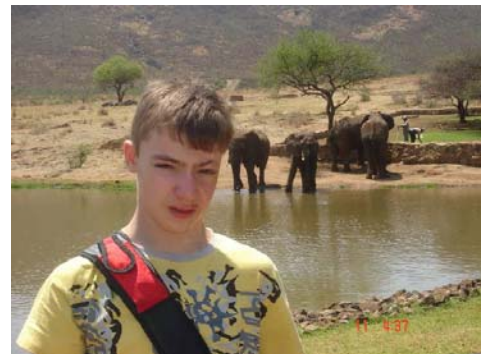
Wednesday 11th October 2006.



Our day started with a very beneficial activity, swimming at the beautiful and fantasy-inducing Valley of the Waves. Entry into this wonderful water park, as well as Sun City, was generously and freely given by Ms. Ursula Badenhorst and Mr. Gregory Scott. After three hours of sun and surf and slide fun we moved on to the next exciting activity.....



Meeting and feeding elephants at Elephant Back Safaris. This awesome and exhilarating time not only truly moved our overseas guests but us South Africans as well. Amazing! Thank you so much to Gill Mitchell, for donating this activity absolutely free, and to Pontso, our guide. What a priceless experience!



After our wondrous time at Sun City we bussed back to camp in time to start the Potjiekos competition, and then to be entertained by the full complement of Mudapotho Productions presenting "Echoes of Africa" in an interactive, colourful and boisterous manner.





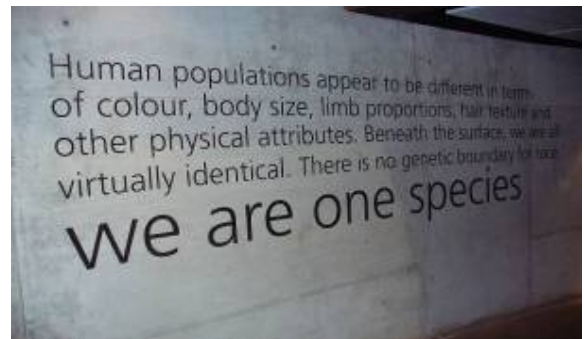
Thursday 12th
October 2006.



This morning started with a game drive. Zebras, Wildebeest, Blesbuck and small game were to be seen at our camp grounds. The owner of Magaliesberg Retreat, Eddie, kindly donated two game drives for our kids to enjoy. The staff of the Retreat, especially Natalie, did their utmost to make our stay memorable. Thereafter we bussed to Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind.



Quite a cultural experience! Our camp name Camp "SIMUNYE" means "We are One". Definitely proved after visiting this interesting, interactive museum.



Many thanks to Nthabiseng, from Maropeng who diligently worked on her superiors to enable us to get a greatly reduced entry fee! This is appreciated.

This afternoon, participants practised an important activity, producing their own scrapbook of the camp experience. This activity was facilitated by Dr Dreyer, assisted by our therapist, Francine Davies. Although seemingly "arty/crafty", it plays a far reaching and meaningful role in an holistic approach to psychological healing.



Thursday night was another highlight in interactive activity:
The Camp **CONCERT**.



England



Canada



Wales

South Africa's concert contribution erupted into a party of note!!!

All the participants joined in to dance and celebrate late into the night, under supervision, of course.

A real bonding experience, and the true outcome of Camp Simunye.

WELL DONE, BURN SURVIVORS.



Friday 13th October 2006.

Definitely not an unlucky one.

Tjaart and his team from Johannesburg Municipality taught the campers some traditional games, one of which, "Kennetjie", has gone back to England to be played there!

To celebrate this historical and

extraordinary camp, the kids created a banner that will be used at all subsequent International Burns Jamborees. Roll on 2008!



The World Burn Foundation of Southern Africa is so indebted to our SPONSORS, without whom this kind of camp would not be possible.

City of Johannesburg, Department Social Development, Directorate Poverty Alleviation - Ms. Ann Cele.
Gauteng Province, Department Social Development, Directorate Aged and Disabilities - Mrs. Leah Smith.
Media Compete - Mr. Paul Wilkins, Ms. Helen Christou.
Constitution Hill Cultural Precinct - Mr. Shahindran Moonieya, Mmabatho Mokwena.
Smacx Tlali
Emergency Management Services - Director Special Projects Mrs. Mekgwe.
Mudapotho Productions - Mr. Macks Papo.
Sun International - Ms. Ursula Badenhorst, Mr. Gregory Scott.
Pilanesberg Elephant back Safaris - Mrs. Gill Mitchell.
Epson S.A. - Mr. Derek Dreyer.
Digital Imaging Distributors - Mr. Dave Tennant, Mrs. Barbara Tennant.
Panasonic S.A. - Ms. Gail Fisher.
Woolworths- Howard Africa and Steve, Cresta
Coca Cola
SABC- Wilma Spies and crew

ALL STAFF and VOLUNTEERS who so ably contributed to the overall success...
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!