Cape Town gets ready for its sixth Consular Ball

CAPE TOWN Consular CORPS

On Saturday 18th November the Consular Corps of Cape Town will gather with their friends and business associates for their much-anticipated annual Ball. The glittering event will again take place at Kelvin Grove Ballroom in Newlands.

The Consular Ball's objective is to raise money for local charities and its unique auction of items that cannot be bought in a shop is sure to delight the guests yet again this year. *"We've involved the best in their fields – chefs, artists, financial gurus, winemakers - to create incredible auction items,"* says Isabel Verwey, wife of the deputy dean of the Corps and organiser of the Ball. *"There will be something for every taste!"*

Top of the list is an enchanted evening of art, nature and music never experienced before. Internationally acclaimed artist, **Dylan Lewis**, will accompany 25 guests on a walk through his incredible **Sculpture Garden** outside Stellenbosch. The 4 km walkway is lined with more than 60 sculptures and the expansive landscape, views, smells and sounds creates a magical world that is the perfect backdrop for his masterpieces.



In the garden the guests will be entertained by the heavenly voices of the **Tygerberg Children's Choir**. The choir has won every major international choral competition since its inception 47 years ago, and in 2010 were crowned **World champions** at the **World Choir Games** in China. They will provide the perfect ending to an unforgettable evening.

Another unique item for nature lovers is an **Out-of-Africa weekend** for 4 persons, organised by the **Consulate of Romania**. The highest bidder and his/her friends will be flown to a secret destination in Mpumalanga where they will stay for 2 nights at a guesthouse in the **Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary** and meet the founder, **Petronel Niewoudt**. Baby rhino's whose mothers were killed by poachers are brought to this amazing lady who cares for them until they can be released into the wild. Guests will accompany her on her rounds and will be allowed to touch



and feed the baby rhinos – a priceless experience and one that even **Prince Harry** raved about after a recent visit.

For the first time this year the auction will be online, giving people who cannot attend the Consular Ball the opportunity to bid. Anyone who is interested in the above two auction items can visit the website **www.clearasset.co.za** and put in a bid. ***The highest bidders for the five most exclusive items will be invited to the Ball along with their partners as guests of the Consular Corps to take part in the live auction.***

For wine connoisseurs, **Warwick Estate** is offering **6 Magnums** of different vintages – most of them older than 10 years. The highest bidder for these collector wines will be invited, along with 11 friends, to **a VIP tasting** of these older vintages. The tasting with snacks for 12 people will be led by none-other than "The First Lady" of South Africa's wine industry, **Norma Ratcliffe**. She was the first woman to become a member of the Cape Winemaker's Guild, the only woman to serve as Chairperson



and has been head-winemaker at Warwick since the late 1970s.

And for businessmen there will be a rare opportunity. Former Supreme Court judge, **Prof. Mervyn King** is chairman of the King Committee on Corporate Governance in South Africa. His name has become synonymous with corporate governance both locally and abroad and the King reports have changed the landscape of corporate governance. Eight guests will have the opportunity to join Prof King at a private lunch at the **5-star Taj Hotel** to discuss the business landscape and related matters. And to make it a truly unique and fascinating experience, business tycoon, **Dr Christo Wiese**, will also be present to provide sage advice. This prize has been facilitated by the **Institute of Directors**, who has also kindly made available two one-day training sessions on directorship to the winner and a guest.

A favourite part of the evening is always the **Tombola** or lucky draw, with prizes donated by various consulates. *"I am very excited about this year's big Tombola prize!"* says Isabel. *"For the first time the **Maldives** is represented by **Honorary Consul, Ms Naziema Jappie**, and **Maldivian Airlines** plans to launch a weekly flight between S.A. and the Maldives. Some lucky guest will win a week's dream holiday for two persons on the island, everything included – flights, accommodation, transfers by speedboat, meals and drinks. And best of all, the direct flight from Johannesburg takes only 7½ hours!"* The vacation is arranged by **Perfect Destinations**,– the appointed General Sales Agent of the Airline. The winner will stay at the **Adaaran**



Select Hudhuranfushi Hotel, which benefits from a reef for spectacular diving and snorkelling.

"Representatives of 22 countries will attend the Ball and we want to expose them to the best South Africa has to offer" says Isabel. *"For that reason guests can look forward to the award winning-wines of **Le Manoir de Brendel Estate** in Franschhoek, sponsored by Consular Corps members - **Christian and Maren Brendel**. And this year we have one of my all-time favourite sweet treats, **Chocolates by Tomes**, and international best seller **Amarula** as gifts for our esteemed guests."* The Consular Ball promises once again to be a diverse evening full of colour and flavour!

With only a few seats left, Capetonians interested in attending this very special event should contact **Johanna Strauss** *as soon as possible at* **083 305 0472** or jstrauss@durbanvillekinderhuis.org.za

THIS YEAR THE PROCEEDS OF THE CONSULAR BALL WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING THREE CHARITIES

DURBANVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME

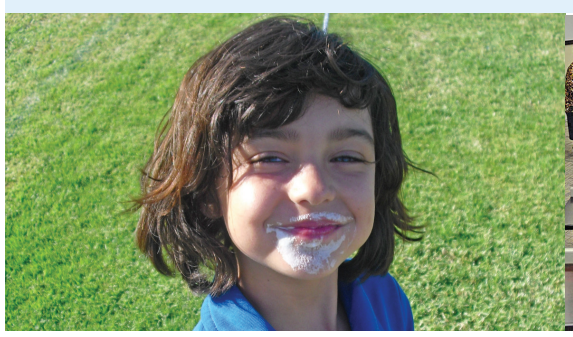
This safe haven has nurtured vulnerable children for 134 years and their focus is the care, development and rehabilitation of the children between the ages of 2 and 18 years who are placed with them.

CAPE TIMES BURSARY FUND

Skills for our children - that's the spirit of this fund that has helped more than 500 young people since 1982 to secure their futures by giving them access to higher education.

PROUD PARTNERS

This NGO is involved in a number of educational projects that include the care and development of pre-school children in disadvantaged communities. They also donate musical instruments to talented young people who cannot afford their own.






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