

Bona Dea charity ball – a night to remember

By way of a last minute donation of R50 000 the amount raised at the Bona Dea Estate charity fundraising ball leaped to almost R400 000. The glittering event was held on the Bona Dea Estate in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley on 2 November in aid of Camphill School. It was attended by 150 guests who each paid either R1 000 or R1 500 (VIP tickets) which included a four course meal, wines from Hamilton Russell Vineyards (and the dessert wine from Beaumont Wines), and entertainment by singer Nianell.

Some of the guests still dug deeper into their pockets to bid on auction items that included a young race horse from Hemel 'n Aarde Stud with stabling and training for two years sponsored by Crawford Racing in Cape Town. The horse fetched R125 000 at the auction and the successful bidders were a consortium of people from Hermanus and Athens, Greece.

The other big bidding items included a 6 night stay for 10 people at the 4 star Ngau Lodge in Madikwe Game Reserve (bidding price R45 000), sponsored by Michelle Cathrall from Cape Town and a week's luxury accommodation (bidding price R22 000) for four people on the Greek island of Skiathos, sponsored by Alexia Honiball.

It was a night to remember. A power outage just before the event started threatened to derail the function, but after a few frantic phone calls by the general manager of the estate, Galvin Lloyd, this was soon sorted – only to resurface as Nianell took to the stage. Unfazed she started singing a cappella. One line in the song was: 'I believe in the power of prayer, I believe that a miracle is taking me there' and as if on cue by divine intervention, the electricity came back on.

The rest of the evening was magical. The setting, the catering, the ambiance, the amount of money raised – truly spectacular.



The amount raised far surpassed their expectations, said Robert Johnson. They had hoped for R100 000, realised R250 000 was possible due to the generosity of individuals and the business community, but reaching the final total of R384 650 'is unbelievable'. The money will go towards the Camphill School security project which includes fencing and a secure entrance. The cheque was handed over to representatives of Camphill School on Monday 11 November. From left: Juan Pieterse (BNP Accounting), Elaine Davie (fundraiser), Robert Johnson (Bona Dea Estate), Michelle van Zyl (fundraiser) and Jeanne-Marie Botha (admin and finance management). PHOTOS: CILENE BEKKER



Magda Viljoen and Rick Oosthuizen chatting to Grant MacLachlan.

Camphill School says 'thank you'

To dear Robert, Diddi, innumerable businesses and individuals:

It was an evening to remember! I don't think Hermanus has seen so much glitz and glamour all in one place for a very long time. I'm talking about the extraordinary Dinner-Dance organised by Robert and Diddi Johnson on Saturday night of 2 November at their magnificent Bona Dea Estate in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. It was organised to raise funds for the Camphill School security project and it could not have been a greater success.

All of us at the School – learners, staff and members of the Board – would like to express our enormous gratitude to Diddi and Robert for the enthusiasm and energy with which they threw themselves into this project. The unsuspected powers of persuasion they brought to bear to ensure the generous participation of so many members of the Hermanus community were quite astonishing.

Indeed, we are at a loss for words to

express our gratitude to innumerable businesses and individuals who bought tickets and made donations in cash and in kind. Where would we be without the ongoing encouragement we receive from the people of Hermanus?

Financial support is clearly of vital importance in helping Camphill School provide high-quality education and care to our very special children. However, equally heart-warming is the love which we feel constantly surrounding us, epitomised by this initiative of Robert and Diddi, their friends, neighbours and business associates.

What greater gift can there be than ensuring the safety of our children and staff, so that this remains a haven of peace and tranquillity for them in the heart of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley? In return, we want to offer all our friends love, gratitude and the wish that they will be greatly blessed.

ELAINE DAVIE, FUNDRAISER, CAMPHILL SCHOOL



Len Huidig, Anton Gerber, Hugo van Zyl and Jan Stuljens.

Guests mingling on the lawn at the function venue enjoyed canapés such as duck liver parfait with calvados jelly crystals, prawn skewers and white gazpacho with grapes prepared by Zest Catering.



The starter was a tuna carpaccio (photo) followed by fillet of beef and for dessert a vanilla bean panacotta was served. For late nighters there was coffee, homemade fudge and a midnight snack.



Inside the glittering function venue.



Galvin Lloyd (general manager: Bona Dea Estate), with the successfully bidder for the double magnum Creation Syrah Grenache.



Diddi Johnson and auctioneer Nic Altona-De Klerk (right) in high spirits after closing a bid on one of the high price lots.

Thank you to all the sponsors



Quentin and Sally-Anne Mitchell with Robert Johnson.



Henriëtte and Theo Biesenbach.

- Bona Dea Estate: co-ordination, marketing, venue, furniture, cutlery, crockery, glasses, set-up, breakdown, décor, protea flowers and greens, candles, linen and nappery, function consumables, décor, labour, overtime costs, rope fairy lights, VIP table chairs, special crockery, linen, candelabras, candle votives, sponsorship of video material etc.
- Galvin Lloyd (general manager – Bona Dea): co-ordination, function preparation, set up, break down and management during the event.
- Hamilton Russell Vineyards: wine throughout the meal valued at R47 000.
- Anthony Hamilton Russell: MC on the night.
- Zest Catering (Bot River): all catering at cost, design of meals and labour.
- Beaumont Wines: dessert wine.
- Waitering staff from West Staff Services in Cape Town: services at cost.
- Clinton Lerm: sponsored fees for Nianell performance (excluding flight tickets) R15 000.
- Juan Pieterse form BNP Accounting: fully sponsoring all accounting and bookkeeping services, receiving of money on ticket sales and auction management, management of security project funds.
- Stock Tents: supply of tent and fairy lights inside of venue area, set up and breakdown of tent at highly discounted rate.
- Okasie, Hermanus, Andre Lamprechts: supply of flowers and arrangements, involvement in décor planning.
- Nic Altona-De Klerk: auctioneer.
- Downings Hire: discounted hiring cost of catering equipment and chair hire.
- My Design: printing of invitation tickets, menus, auction lists.
- JayDee Multi Media Production: audio visual material for function evening.
- Hermanus Times: media partner.
- Just Pure: for goodie bag products.
- House & Leisure: for goodie bag magazines.
- The Gardener / Die Tuinier: for goodie bag magazines.
- Paul du Toit, Wine Village: for planning and organizing the cash bar.
- Auction items:**
 - Hemel 'n Aarde Stud: young race horse, David & Sandy Hepburn-Brown
 - Crawford Racing: stabling, training of horse for two years including jockey fees, Brett & Jill Crawford.
 - Alexia Honiball: week's holiday in Greece for 4 people & Lambros Choumas for full day boat trips.
 - CHB Landscaping and Irrigation: Chris & Louise Hepburn-Brown.
 - Billy Jean: photography package.
 - Wellness Emporium: for specialized wellness, including an array of medical body and facial treatments by Dr Deirdre Grobbelaar.
 - Originals Gallery: two framed original paintings by Terry Kobus.
 - Creation Wines: Double Magnum Syrah Grenache.
 - Nguni skin by breeders Nick & Greg Altona de Klerk.
 - Multi-activity adventure trip for six donated by Clinton Lerm from Hermanus Adventures.
 - Cold cast bronze lioness statue by sculptor Willie Botha from Hermanus.
 - Helicopter flight for one hour around Cape Town Peninsula donated by Sandow Rossow of Civair.
 - Hand-made African Whale Bear named May Redman after the founder of Camphill, donated by Elize and Jaques Fouche @ DeVoorskooten.
 - 2 x photographic canvasses by photographer Marius Martens.
 - Luxury lodge at Madikwe for ten persons donated by Michelle Cathrall from Cape Town.

Lucky draw donations:

- Alexia Honiball from Skiathos: 1 x week accommodation including breakfast on Greek Island.
- Lambros Choumas form Skiathos: for boat trips, full day excursion.
- The Marine: weekend accommodation and breakfast.
- Anna Celliers: 10 x gardening books.
- Hermanus Car wash: 2 x full valets, 6 x car washes.
- Burgundy Restaurant: 2 x dinner vouchers.
- Arabella Spa: 5 x African Rain Forest treatments valued R520 each.
- Dr Herman Fourie: 5 x professional teeth cleaning appointments.
- Creation Wines: food & wine pairing for four people.
- Creations Wines: vineyard safari for six people.
- Proactive Gym: 6 months membership.
- Goozi: Le Creuset 'Spring Hammer'.
- Action Rod voucher.

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