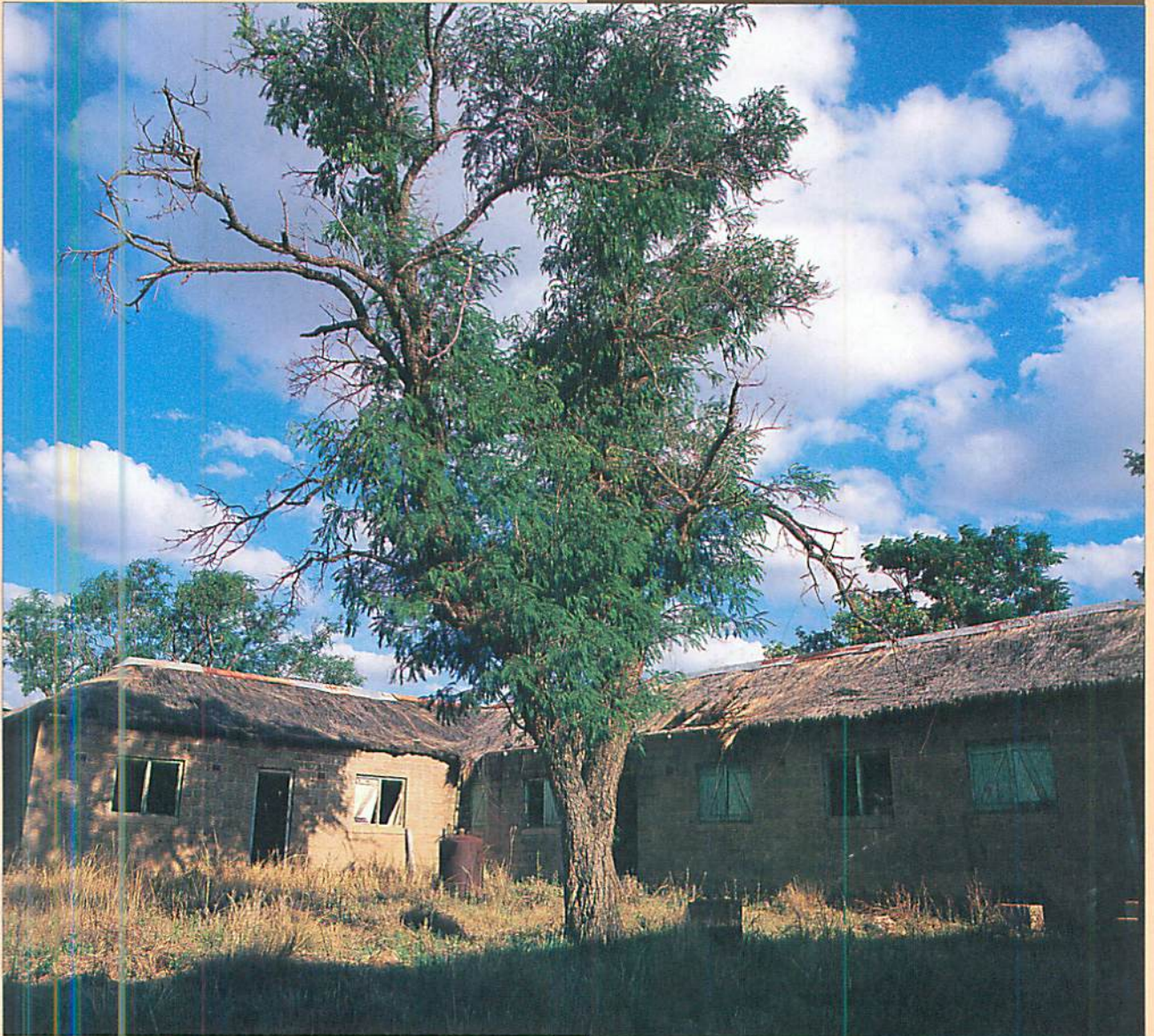


WATERBERG

MUSEUM



"Melkrivier" School - restoring our heritage



"The ideal theatre of manly venture, of great endeavours and the possibility of princely wealth. Ivory was then what gold and diamonds became afterwards, and stories were told of bold and lucky hunters killing twenty tuskers in one morning, the value of a principality of land in a few hours".

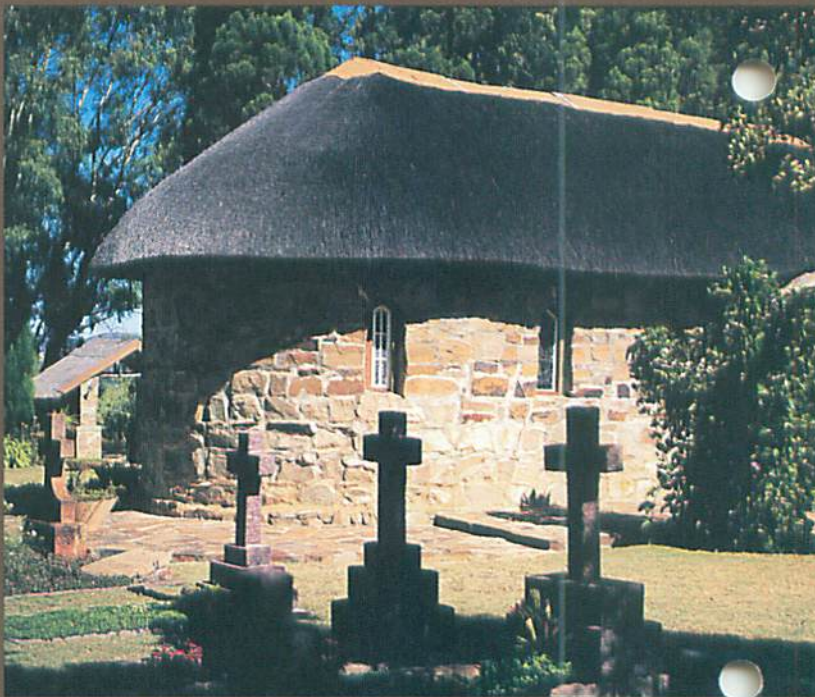
Eugène Marais

Eugène Marais, father of African ecology and author of 'My Friends the Baboons' and 'The Soul of the White Ant', first came to the Waterberg mountains of the Northern Province in 1907 and settled on a farm known as Doornhoek. He was also to write a classic entitled 'Road to the Waterberg' from whence the words on the cover spring and had the knack of describing these mountains in a most profound way.

The road to the Waterberg lies some 300 km north of the Witwatersrand and derived its name from the early white settlers who first ventured into these mountains in the 1840's. The Waterberg, however, has a long history of human occupation and if one is to include the early Hominids, then its history spans more than a million years.

Stone Age implements, fashioned by Homo Erectus, have been found along the Lephalala River basin. According to research these large hand-held tools are sometimes found amongst the bones of animals such as elephant and rhinoceros which were probably scavenged rather than hunted.

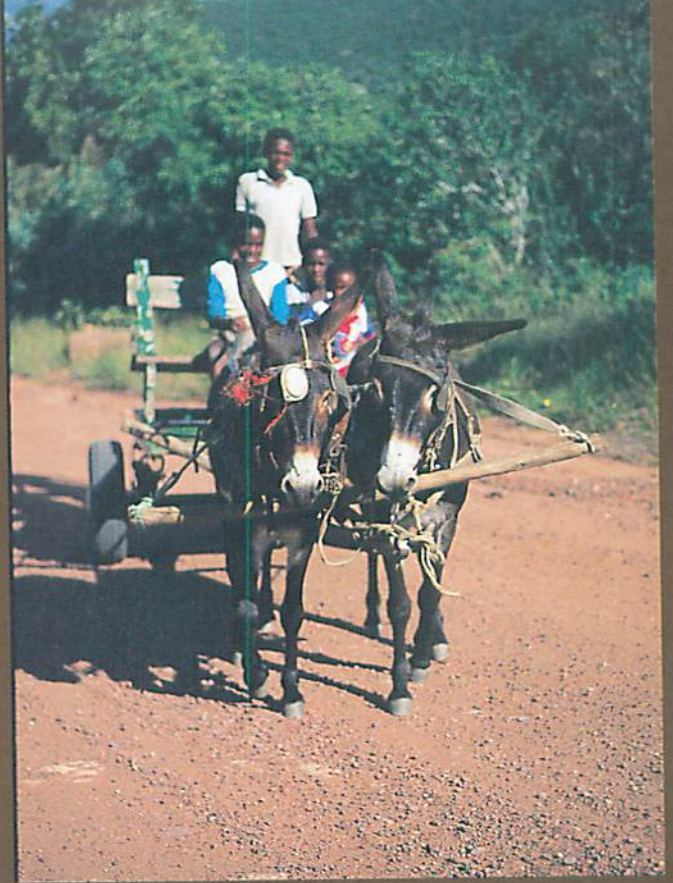
The people of the late Stone Age, the San (Bushmen), who were indigenous hunter/gatherers, were displaced within the last two thousand years when the first Iron Age people moved into the area. Settlements of late Iron Age people, built until approximately 150 years ago, are to be found throughout the Waterberg mountain range. The diverse cultural history of these people, whilst studied in detail by many scientists and researchers, is barely known to the general public.



From the mid 1800's the landscape was to witness the elimination of all the mega fauna : rhino and elephant, lion, buffalo, hippo, giraffe, spotted hyaena and most of, if not all, the common antelope. The advent of the muzzle-loader was to bring about this change.

Up to the turn of the century the Waterberg had an air of mystique about it. It is not surprising that the president of the old Transvaal Republic, Paul Kruger, is reputed to have said about a troublesome citizen: "Give him a farm in the Waterberg". It was the grave of remittance men, draft dodgers, gun runners, ivory traders and hunters and the makers of strong drink. It also became the home, before the great South African war, of serious-minded, pioneering Afrikaans and English speaking people who put down roots in what had become a deserted landscape. The Late Iron Age people had long since left these mountains.

The Waterberg has a fascinating tale to tell and should become accessible to the broad public - from a historical point of view and from a natural history point of view. More importantly, it should become an Environmental Education Centre accessible to tourists.



THE WATERBERG

The Waterberg encompasses an area of some 15 000 sq km, bounded on three sides by mountain ranges and passes with the gently undulating Palala basin at its core. There is one town, namely Vaalwater, and a rapidly growing wildlife/tourism orientated industry. For sheer beauty it is matchless.

It is largely underpopulated, lacks pollution, commercial forestry and industry and sadly, a sense of our culture and history. I believe, and have done so since I first came here fifteen years ago, that something should be done to preserve our past multicultural. With this in mind, I have set out to establish a Museum Centre. I have found the ideal site, the old "Melkrivier" School which is easily accessible to the broad public, being one kilometre off the main access road to Lapalala Wilderness and four kilometres from the main road between Vaalwater and Marken. The Centre will operate under the auspices of the **Wilderness Trust of Southern Africa**, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation.

Fundraising Number 03-3000046-00-2.



This legally registered Trust will become the guardian of the Waterberg Museum collection, either donated or loaned and will be advised by a number of local people and outside experts.

The archaeological component will be developed with the appropriate experts in the field as permission is required to display historical treasures such as pottery, grinding stones, stone tools, iron and copper objects. Much of the exhibit will take the form of photographs which will include fauna, flora, landscapes and people. The Rock Art of the Waterberg will also feature in photographic form plus my own private collection of San artifacts.

Yours sincerely

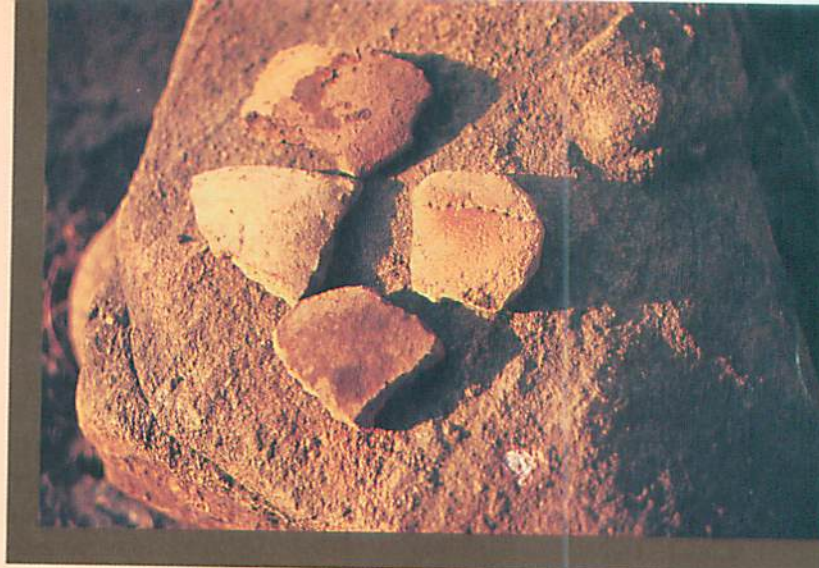


CLIVE WALKER
Chairman

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Centre will be open seven days a week and will take the form of a number of sections:

- A. Cultural History Museum
- B. A Rhino Museum and natural history section of the Waterberg



- C. Auditorium and venue for meetings
- D. Library and art gallery
- E. Shop
- F. Refreshment area with toilets and adequate parking

WHO WILL VISIT THE CENTRE

- General public - the Centre is en route to Lapalala Wilderness.
- All participants in the Lapalala Wilderness School programme.
- Visitors en route to Botswana and Limpopo Valley region.
- Children of the Abraham Kriel Children's Home.

Enquiries:

Mr Clive Walker (Director)
P O Box 157, Vaalwater, 0530
Tel. (0147552) ask for 2803

Lucinda Scholtz
Tel. (011) 453 9834 Fax. (011) 453 7649

WATERBERG MUSEUM

I would like to make a donation towards the development of the museum

METHOD OF PAYMENT

I enclose a cheque payable to:
WATERBERG MUSEUM

I wish to pay by credit card
VISA/MASTERCARD only

NAME:

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POSTAL CODE: TELEPHONE: (.....)

My credit card number is:

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Please send to:
WILDERNESS TRUST

P.O. Box 645
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Tel: (011) 453-7645, Fax: (011) 453-7649
Fundraising Number: - 03-3000046-00-2