

## **NTOMBAZANA**

**Bruce 'Ntombazana' Robert Bryden:** *Bruce 'Ntombazana' Bryden was born in Johannesburg, and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, followed by Honours in Wildlife Management at Pretoria University. In 1971 he started his career in the Kruger National Park as a graduate assistant biologist.*

*He progressed through the ranks as a Section Ranger in the Crocodile Bridge, Mooiplaas, and Skukuza and Shingwedzi sections culminating in his appointment as one of the first District Rangers. It was during this time that he managed to successfully complete his Masters in Wildlife Management in 1976. Bruce left the Kruger National Park for a short while to assist in the establishment of the Karoo National Park where he worked as Park Warden from 1977-1980. He returned to the Kruger National Park in 1980 to become one of the first three section rangers based at Shingwedzi. Bruce was then subsequently appointed as Chief Ranger in 1983 after which he became Head of Conservation Support Services and held various other positions until his retirement in 2001. Since then until his untimely death, he and his wife Helena have been living in Knysna.*

*He is the author of the bestseller book "A Game Ranger Remembers" (2005). It is a collection of stories about the life of a bushveld conservationist as it is lived at the ground level by that elite band of men and woman who guard the Kruger National Park.*

*Bruce is survived by his wife Helena and his two children – Annie, now married to Glen and Robert who is following in his father's footsteps with a career in the Kruger National Park.*

**(Information provided by Annie Baptiste through Louis Olivier)**

*Bruce Bryden played a large role in recruiting and training rangers and other staff to prevent the poaching of game in KNP, and spent many a night tracking poachers in order to protect his beloved Elephants and as such was one of the founding members of the Southern African Rhino and Elephant Security Group. Bruce's name is synonymous with the Kruger National Park and elephant protection in Southern Africa. On his passing Kruger lovers and staff rallied to give Bruce a fitting remembrance. Sanparks forum had one of the biggest forum discussions, on his passing, ever experienced It will not only be a tribute to Bruce but also his supporters, fans and friends to have a tusker named after him. Besides, Bruce was always adamant that the elephant is the real king of the jungle, because lions are lazy and stink.*

**(Motivation for 'Emerging Tusker' status provided by Robert Bryden)**