



# NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### \$128,000 worth of equipment already supplied.

SAVE in Australia has now been in existence since June 1987 and we are justly proud of our achievements. To date, we have provided approximately \$128,000 of equipment into the field in Zimbabwe, mainly for use in the anti-poaching patrols. Much of this equipment has been purchased at very good prices and its real value would probably be 30% higher than the figure listed. However, more importantly, its real value in Zimbabwe is almost impossible to imagine — our donated items simply aren't available there!

The role SAVE (Australia) plays is a most important one and the Director of the Zimbabwe National Parks, Dr William Nduku, and his Chief Warden of Operations, Glenn Tatham, have grown to rely on our efforts when they are in need of vital pieces of equipment. Fortunately, their plight is becoming increasingly better known around the world and there are other foreign donor bodies that are starting to take note of what is going on in Zimbabwe. In particular, U.S. Aid has recently pledged a large amount of money for use in an

elephant project in Hwange Game Park.

There has been bad publicity about charities and fund-raising organisations in recent weeks in the media, and we read that some bodies are spending up to 90% of their donated money on expenses, leaving only 10% to go to the beneficiaries. This is quite outrageous and it is time a government enquiry was centered on such happenings.



In SAVE, we are very proud of our philosophy which states quite clearly that all personnel voluntarily donate their time and administrative and other overheads are kept to a bare minimum. In fact, in this financial year, since July 1989, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE DOLLAR SPENT ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN PURCHASING EQUIPMENT FOR AFRICA. OR PURCHASING THE ITEMS THAT WE BUY IN ORDER TO RESELL AT A PROFIT. In other words, every dollar that we collect in whatever way we do will be spent on purchasing much-needed items for Zimba-

bwe. The overheads that you would normally associate with such an organisation are entirely paid for. All our faxes are kindly donated by Australasian Tour Services of 226 Oxford St, Leederville, and the numerous overseas telephone calls and any interstate or overseas travel and accommodation made by myself, are all kindly supplied by a private company.

All our members and readers of this Newsletter can feel quite safe that your funds are being wisely managed and put to maximum use.

We have just had notification from Affretair in Zimbabwe that they will most generously continue to transport all items purchased in England from Gatwick Airport to Harare on a no cost basis. Naturally, our thanks go to their Commercial Manager, Mr G Manhambara, for this outstanding offer.

Last August, we supplied a number of reconditioned Landrover engines and gearboxes for use in the Parks, but unfortunately they were not of

the high quality we were assured they would be. Consequently, there have been a number of major breakdowns and it has been necessary to seek compensation from the supplier. This necessitated legal action being taken and finally the matter has been resolved. By the time you read this Newsletter three more engines and a whole mass of spare parts will be in Harare. We are very grateful to the voluntary legal assistance given us by Graham Brook of Nielson and Co.

During the past week we have been in the process of purchasing five Yamaha 25hp outboard motors. We had been waiting to hear from Glenn Tatham that the "Banana Boats" were ready for launching and when this message came through recently we then set about buying the motors. However, it wasn't as easy as we thought because they were not available in Australia. We found some in England, but at a rather too high price, and then found that the Japanese factory was out of stock. Finally, we bought some from the Yamaha dealership in Auckland, and with the assistance of Qantas, they have been flown over to Zimbabwe, ready for duty on the Zambezi River where we hope they will discourage poachers from entering Zimbabwe from Zambia. We should note that Moller Yamaha in Auckland were most generous with our purchasing price from them.

You will be reading elsewhere of the great efforts made by the New South Wales Branch of SAVE and of how everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Dinner/Auction at the Abbey Restaurant in Glebe. Certainly, it was night to remember, and the money raised will be spent on transport items. Already, some outboard motor spare parts have been sent out as well as a whole range of cartography pens for the mapping section of the Parks Department. Mark Bowler, their Chief Cartographer, is absolutely thrilled with his new supplies! Our congratulations go to the whole New South Wales operation, under their Chairman, Stephen Ward, for the most professional way in which they organised this memorable night, and how nice it was to have the Kenyan High Commissioner Major-General Joseph Musomba, as our main guest.

We had hoped to have a major fundraiser at the Zoo this month, but for various reasons it had to be cancelled. Our next project will be a Rhino-Rock Dance Party, to be held at the Perth Superdrome on June 30.

This will involve an Eastern States band, a local band and the latest dance videos and will be for children between 13 and 18. It will be our most expensive project so far and we ask that any readers who are involved with businesses that would find benefit from sponsorship towards teenagers should consider contacting SAVE for further details. There will be 5,000 youngsters at this Dance and it will be great exposure for your business or product. Sponsorships are available from \$1,000 so please phone me on 444 6550 to discuss this.

A couple of months ago the Executive were sorry to lose the services of Barbara Bryant. Barbara is a business lady who needs to travel between Perth and Adelaide on frequent occasions and she has found that this does not allow her to do justice to her position on the Executive. It was with regret that we accepted her resignation and we thank her for her contribution to our cause over the past year. We are very happy to welcome onto the Executive Gavin Chisholm, who formerly lived in Zimbabwe and is now a businessman in Perth. His Zimbabwe experiences and his business connections will be a great plus to SAVE and we look forward to a major contribution coming from Gavin. He will be well supported by his charming wife, Betty.

Safari travel to Africa is becoming more and more popular and there are many companies promoting this type of holiday. Safari trips can be arranged from budget type where you do a lot of walking and camping to extravagant, expensive, first class safaris. We have contacts with various operators in Zimbabwe and

would be happy to either advise or arrange any trips you might consider making. One such trip is being promoted elsewhere in this Newsletter, and there is a fascinating article by one of our members, Maureen de le Harpe, on a recent canoeing safari. Thanks Maureen for your contribution.

I will be in Zimbabwe from 19 April to 26 April, mainly to check on the condition and whereabouts of all the equipment we have supplied during the past 33 months. I will also be finding out the best way that SAVE can continue to help the rhino problem, as it may be that there are other ways that we can direct our energies. There will be more news of that in the June Newsletter.

Until then, please consider any ways that you can help SAVE, either financially or with other assistance, and we are always happy to hear from you at our Headquarters at 229 Oxford St, Leederville, telephone 444 6550. We hope that the very least you can do is introduce one new member to our cause and that in itself is a good method of fund-raising.

And just a reminder about the products we have for sale. We have a range of SAVE T-Shirts (see photos) and other T-Shirts (kindly donated by Screen Process Decalcraft) which are just \$10 each. Also, we have soapstone carvings, bags, cards, prints and photos. Please call in anytime between Monday to Friday but preferably not during the lunch hour, as we are sometimes closed. It is certainly worth the visit, although you will find it a bit messy! In short, please help!

Nicholas S. Duncan  
PRESIDENT

## TREASURER'S REPORT SCHOOL OR SOCIAL CLUB TALKS

A recent talk at Presbyterian Ladies College, about the plight of the black rhino, was a success for SAVE. Over 80 girls bought T-shirts and are proudly wearing them all over the western suburbs.

School talks are a major part of SAVE's fund-raising, and they are both informative and entertaining. The talks can run from 30 minutes up to 90 minutes. It can include a video or slide show.

We also cater for social clubs or

sporting clubs. The Bayswater Tennis Club recently hosted a 'SAVE' tennis day. Players donated \$4 and competed for trophies. An afternoon tea talk was successful and over \$380 was raised.

If you are a member of a social sporting club, or a schoolteacher, please help SAVE by contacting us with your ideas or to arrange a talk. Details can be obtained from the SAVE office on 444 6550 or Ray Pedretti on 370 3287 (after hours).

Ray Pedretti  
TREASURER.

# ZAMBEZI SAFARI

by Maureen de la Harpe

**It was on Day 3 of the Canoe Safari that we saw, protruding from a sandbank on the Zambezi River, two large tattered hand-woven objects that looked like primitive fishtraps.**

As Zambian fishermen on the north bank often crossed the river illegally to the Zimbabwean side, we retrieved the traps and Tim, the safari guide, handed them over to National Parks officers we met further downriver in Mana Pools National Park. "Not fish traps," the two uniformed African rangers shook their heads grimly, "poachers from Zambia, they fix big rubber tyres to these baskets — use for rafts. They come to shoot rhino."

The officers told us that five heavily armed poachers had been captured by an anti-poachers unit only two days earlier. But, and one of the men shrugged gloomily, "Still they come, every week — too many."

The anti-poaching units, they explained as they prepared to resume their patrol, were hopelessly understaffed for the titanic task of halting the steady influx of poachers lured across the border by the promise of high prices paid by Zambian middlemen for rhino horn.

Later, in a silent grove near Main

Camp I saw a graveyard of several hundred bleached rhino skulls heaped beneath a spreading canopy of mahogany trees. It was, I was told, one of three such graveyards, further evidence of the horrendous slaughter of the world's last sizeable herd of black rhino living in the wilds in this remote sanctuary in the Middle Zambezi Valley.

That interlude was the only sour note in a memorable four-day safari that carried our small party of eight, in four shallow canoes, through 70 kilometres of verdant floodplains sheltering a wealth of wildlife in one of the world's last great wildernesses. Of rhino there was no sign, but other species we saw in abundance: Elephant, buffalo, lion, (even a leopard one early morning), impala, eland, kudu, waterbuck, warthog, zebra, crocodiles — and hippos by the hundred. For bird lovers, the river is a paradise: In four days we counted well over 100 different varieties.

Every bend in the river reveals new surprises, and although a safari day follows a pattern, no two are alike.

We are awakened before dawn with a cup of tea, and while Tim's two assistants break camp and load equipment into the Land Cruiser for transport to the next campsite, we push out the two-man canoes and paddle through carpets of water hyacinth into the sunrise, heralded by a chorus of waterbirds.

After a stop for a short game-viewing drive on shore, the canoes continue downstream in search of a suitable breakfast site.

Canoeing makes for hearty appetites and we enjoy a mammoth feast of fruit juice, cereal, bacon, eggs and coffee under the watchful eyes of a family of hippos settling with contented grunts into comfortable positions in the water. Crocodiles perfect their camouflage on sandbanks, while a lone elephant bull swims slowly across the river to the northern shore, and kingfishers dart and swoop from driftwood perches.

The day drifts by in a leisurely sequence of game-viewing, bird-watching, refreshment breaks and the occasional swim in waters judged croc-free by Tim. By the end of Day 2 even the American couple, on their first African visit, are proudly identifying lilac-breasted rollers, Egyptian geese, and the different varieties of antelope.

At sunset we beach the canoes at the new campsite, where a neat row of tents has been erected under shady trees. A long table spread with a white cloth stands on the bank, dinner is simmering on a campfire, and, most welcome sights of all, the "bush shower" has been erected in a nearby acacia.

The night is punctuated by camp visitors: An inquisitive honey badger looking for scraps, two hyena 'whoop whooping' eerily outside my tent while, in the distance, a lion roars his supremacy of the African night.

My main worry is the hippos. All day they punctuate our passage downriver with adrenalin-pumping interludes, as groups send out advance guards to investigate our passing

with a series of bellows. "75% of all wildlife accidents" warns Tim, "are caused by hippos."

At night the hippos climb out of the river and wander inland in search of food. They pass close to the tents, so close I can clearly hear the thumps and splashes as they haul their tremendous bulk out of the water. I have a recurring nightmare — in which one of them loses it way, blunders through the camp and careers back to the river with my tent, and me inside, wrapped around his ears. Then there is Mad Max. A lone male hippo with massive head and the body of a jumbo jet. He patrols a narrow channel on the south bank, and gets his kicks from ambushing canoes. A couple of years ago he chomped one in half, and deposited its hysterical female occupants in crocodile-infested waters. We have to pass through Max's territory to reach camp on Day 2, and no sooner has Tim spotted him than he submerges. As Max can stay under water for 10 minutes, he has a disconcerting habit of re-appearing where you least expect, or want, to see him. Like underneath your canoe.

But we are in luck, and although he makes fierce noises, and mock-charges in a truly terrifying way, he eventually allows us to pass.

No untoward accident mars our journey through this remote paradise, and the occasional burst of adrenalin — like the occasion when we surprised a 12-foot croc — merely heightens the sense of wonder and excitement at being in such close contact with the animals of Africa. (Adding, of course, to our growing fund of war stories.)

A number of companies operate canoe safaris on the Zambezi. Some emphasise the sporting aspect and cover long distances in a day, while others, like the one I chose (Garth Thompson Safaris) prefer to offer a more leisurely safari, giving wildlife enthusiasts all the time in the world to linger and learn, and keep Kodak in business.

The best time of the year for canoeing in Zimbabwe is from April to September, but even during these cooler months, you need plenty of sunblock, a sturdy hat, and anti-malarial pills. And don't forget your binoculars.

# DAVIS CUP STARS SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

During the recent Davis Cup tie between Australia and France, played at Royal King's Park Tennis Club, we were given great moral support by the various tennis stars. The entire Australian team, together with Yannick Noah, were very keen to wear our T-shirts and they also spoke highly of what we were doing. There is one SAVE-T-shirt, autographed by the complete Australian Davis Cup Squad, that will be sold at a suitable auction or you may care to make a private tender.

In addition, the previous month saw the Hopman Cup being played at the Burswood Superdome, and we were lucky enough to have one T-shirt autographed by Pat Cash, Yannick Noah, Emilio Sanchez and John McEnroe and two T-shirts autographed by Tatum O'Neal and John McEnroe. We also have T-shirts autographed by Cliff Richard and Elton John. These also will be auctioned when appropriate but can be pur-

chased by private tender in the meantime.

On every occasion that we spoke to these players they were most concerned of the slaughter going on in Africa and were equally supportive of the role that SAVE is playing. They ask that you do give generously to this cause and that is the reason they were prepared to autograph the various shirts.



LEFT: John Fitzgerald

RIGHT: Yannick Noah

BELOW: Wally Masur and an admirer after his thrilling 5 set win to give Australia a winning lead.







Jan and Barbara Chappell with Nicholas Duncan, at the Abbey Restaurant.

member, Stewart Cooper, donated a wonderful seated rhino which prompted much discussion, also a large dynamic painting by Susan Marler, eventually, after spirited bidding, was sold for \$850.00. It is thanks to all concerned, Nicholas particularly, and the ever persistent David Buther from the R.S.P.S.A., that we at the time of writing look to have made approximately \$6,000 from the auction! We have already arranged, via the kind offer of one of our supporters, for some much-needed Yamaha outboard motor spare parts to be delivered to Zimbabwe (See Stephen Ward's story).

This has been a most successful function for SAVE (NSW), not only in terms of the funds raised, which will enable SAVE to purchase an outboard motor and possibly other desperately needed equipment, but also in terms of the strong expressions of support and enthusiasm generated before, during and especially after the event. SAVE's efforts can only be enhanced by the support of as many people as possible for all our future functions, of which we hope there will be many, and of course by the hard work and back-up of our committee here in New South Wales. Without their help, and particularly that of Stephen Ward, this function would certainly not have been the success it was.

To all those people who supported SAVE so generously during the evening, a very big thank you, and we hope to let you know soon of our next big event!

Susan Bernasconi  
Treasurer SAVE (NSW)

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recently I was browsing through one of my favourite books on Africa called "Zambesi" and I came across a paragraph which I now quote.

"In addition the poachers are being hunted by the best bush fighters available. A brave policy of shoot on sight has been declared. The organisations behind the trade routes are being exposed. Yet the high rewards still lure the poachers to steal across the river from the north. More men, more resources, more joint operations with governments and law enforcing agencies and more exposure of the middle-men are required. Expensive, frustrating and dangerous, the campaign can still be won."

This quote lead me into thinking about SAVE Australia and a new wave of support for the 1990's — apart from our fund-raising for the

equipment needed, we could perhaps set about spending money in other areas in Zimbabwe, helping the various organisations with campaigns to expose the middle-men. Perhaps, assist the law enforcing agencies in some way and see if we can get local business people more involved.

I believe apathy is everywhere and awareness important, so if some hard hitting campaigns were to be undertaken — the odds are that some locals would respond. Who knows what help could be obtained. Any comments or suggestions from our members?

Marion Bowers  
VICE PRESIDENT

## NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT

### SYDNEY'S "GIRAFFE MAN" HELPS BLACK RHINO

When I rang Ken De La Coeur to invite him to our launch of the NSW Branch at the Abbey Restaurant, he said that he would be unable to attend but that he would be happy to donate a wooden giraffe from his shop at 430 King St, Newtown for the evening's auction.

He imports these giraffes from native carvers in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe and mentioned that he was flying to Harare a few days after the dinner.

A generous bid was made at the auction by cricket commentator Jan Chapell's wife, Barbara, of \$350 which secured the item.

This was a sizeable contribution to the cost of some urgently required Yamaha outboard motor spares which I purchased and delivered to Ken's shop, along with half a dozen highlighting pens.

Ken's flight to Zimbabwe was two days later assuring a quick and safe passage of these spares to the mechanic working for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, all this in less than a week after the auction!

Thus, through the generosity of our "Giraffe Man" we had the satisfaction of making the first contribution of equipment from NSW to helping the preservation of the black rhino. Stephen Ward

## WILDLIFE LOVERS

Why not spend a holiday watching the animals you are helping to save? Join a small group for 3 weeks of adventure in October 1990 — canoeing down the Zambesi and walking in Mana and Matusadona National Parks. Bush camping all the way!

Contact Jan on 362 5957 after 6.30pm for more info.

