

NEWSLETTER ¹⁹²
SEPTEMBER VOL. 5 No. 4
SAVE AFRICAN
ENDANGERED WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION
(AUSTRALIA)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FUND RAISING DRIVE ACQUIRES NEW URGENCY

Whilst we are subjected daily to the horror, tragedy and scandals of Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, let us also remember that the African black rhino is fighting a major battle for survival. Its numbers have decreased from 65,000 some 20 years ago to less than 2,500 now.

For the past 8 years, Zimbabwe has been the last stronghold for these animals, but this title is now in contention. During the dehorning exercises of the past 3 months some horrific facts have come to light. As late as February 1992, the research branch of the Department of National Parks was claiming that Zimbabwe probably had some 1,500 wild black rhinos. These figures are now being somewhat rapidly revised downwards, in the light of the Matusadona experience (85% lost to poaching) and other field reports. "Best guesses" now centre around some 500 to 600 survivors, country wide.

The Zimbabwe tourist industry, based almost exclusively on the country's wildlife, is a major growth industry and expected to earn some \$400 million annually by 1994. The redirection of a small part of these earnings could solve the wildlife protection problem overnight. Sadly, a mere \$10 million of these proceeds is allocated to wildlife conservation, the rest finding its way into "general government expenditure". Hence SAVE is seeking your support more than ever before.

Glenn Tathan described the situation for the black rhino as being on the final lap of a long distance race, now entering the home straight. We believe the future of the black rhino in the wild will be determined

within the next year, and if it is not saved, then it clearly faces extinction in its natural habitat.

To help fund the necessary action being taken in Zimbabwe, SAVE is organising many events within the next few months, details of which can be found in this Newsletter. Please support them as much as you can, and also inform your friends of the work of SAVE and encourage them to become members.

It is worth reminding ourselves that ALL funds raised are spent wisely and responsibly at the direction of the Director of National Parks, or his Chief Warden, and that all our overheads are privately sponsored for maximum gain for SAVE.

Tax-deductible donation forms are available from your local SAVE office, by simply telephoning or writing in.

SAVE thanks the following companies for their recent donations of supplies for the Zimbabwe National Parks: Autoparts for some Toyota shock absorbers, Panasonic for several boxes of batteries, Westrail for ten superseded mobile radios and Officent Business Equipment for 15 rolls of fax paper. These were all safely delivered, courtesy of Qantas, in mid July.

Elsewhere you will read of the progress being made by SAVE in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. This has largely been due to the enormous efforts of Stephen Ward, Richard Barzdo and Sue Pennicuik. Stephen and Richard are now taking a less active role in SAVE and we thank them for their valuable contribution over the past three-and-a-half years.

Nicholas Duncan, President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. for SAVE (Australia) was held in June and the following Executive was elected: President: Nicholas Duncan, Vice President: Guy Tristram, Secretary: Cheryl Davenport, Treasurer: Steve Deacon, General Duties: Margaret Prior.

The President thanked the retiring Vice President, Marion Bowers, for her three years of dedication to SAVE. Due to pressure of work Cheryl has now relinquished her post and our thanks go to her. Krys Jury has kindly accepted the position of Secretary.

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGNS

At the Perth Royal Show SAVE is launching its new range of summer fashion T-shirts! These include the official SAVE logo with the elephant in six different colours, the rhino picture (on this page) with the wording "Extinction is Forever", and black and white shirts with a rhino in a sunset and "Wanted Alive" as the slogan. In addition, there are black and white polo shirts (with collars) with either the SAVE or Wanted Alive logos on the left breast. We also have a range of attractive baseball hats with the two logos.

All of the above are available from the Perth Office — \$25.00 for the polo shirts, \$20.00 for the T-shirts and \$10.00 for the hats. Please add \$2.00 for postage, if necessary.

\$400,000 URGENTLY NEEDED FOR RHINO DEHORNING

Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks has taken the decision to dehorn all remaining rhinos which can be found, and initial estimates indicate that this will need aid to the value of about \$400,000.

Zimbabwe's conservation agencies are urgently appealing to the various international community organisations to support in whatever way possible, and funds have been received from Norway, U.S.A., Australia and England. In addition, local conservation organisations and tourist operators have funded the early work, particularly in the Matusadona National Park.

All hasn't been rosy in the early stages of the dehorning programme. Representation was made to the Government officials for approval to dehorn Zimbabwe's remaining rhinos, as early as last February. Due to bureaucracy, permission wasn't granted for three months, during which time a large number of rhinos were killed.

In addition, shamefully, a helicopter recently supplied by the International Black Rhinoceros Foundation has now been 8 weeks in Harare Airport awaiting customs clearance. One has to question Zimbabwe's commitment to their rhinos in view of these experiences, at a time when the helicopter's use is most vital. Helicopter hire is at the rate of \$500 per hour, and fixed winged spotter planes will cost \$100 per hour.

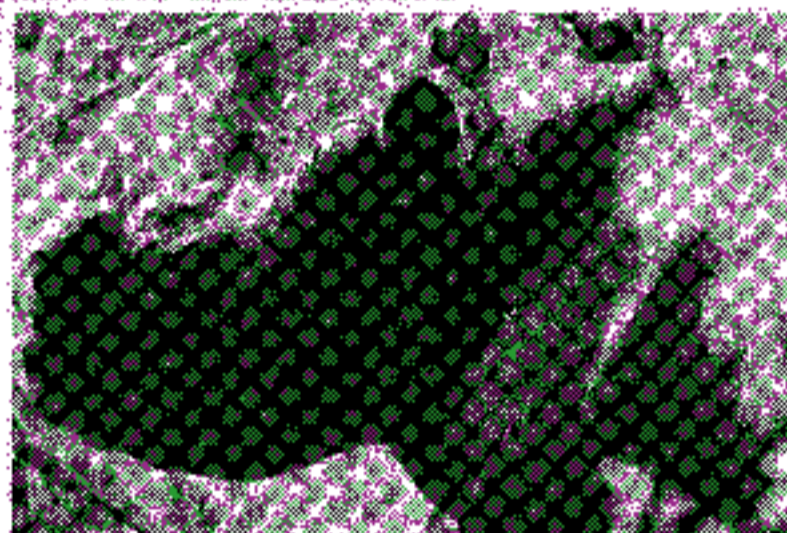
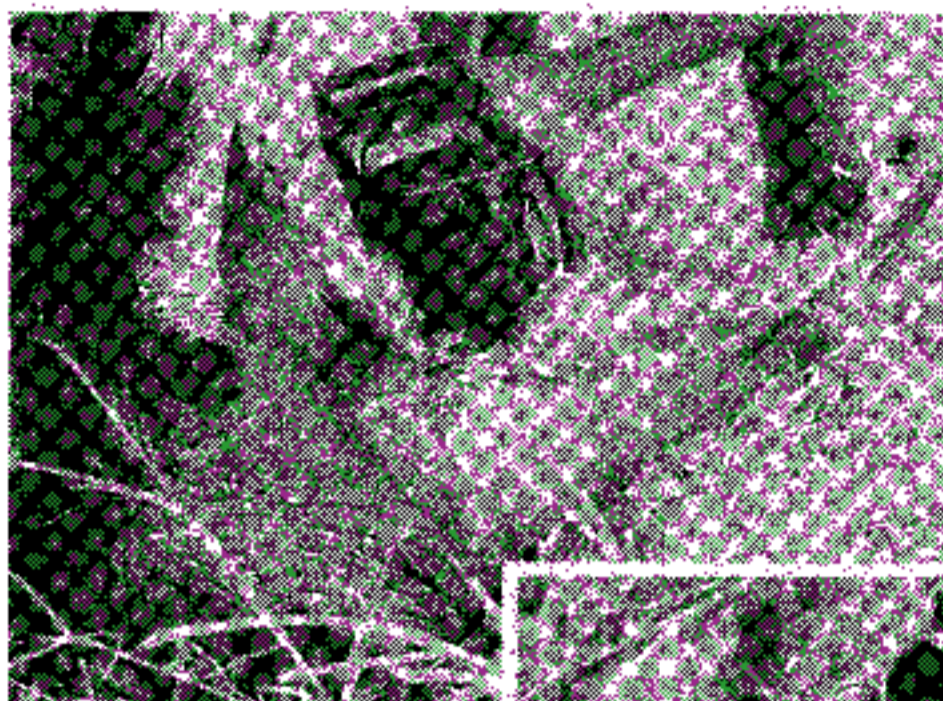
This is the bulk of the expenditure, together with manpower on the ground, led by Mike Kock, the Chief Vet. The ground crews are totally dedicated to their tasks, grossly underpaid and living in very basic conditions in the middle of the bush at strategic locations for tracking the rhinos. These men and women are away from home weeks on end, sleeping in the open with very basic hygiene facilities. Game scouts earn as little as \$50 per month, ranging up to \$300 per month for the Wardens! We should not forget this pitiful pay scale!

Their desire to succeed and their good natured spirit, is much to be commended and having spent a little time with them, I urge all our supporters to be as generous as they can in helping fund this vital work.

Based on statistics from the Matusadona, the dehorning costs \$1,000 per animal, and it is hoped that 500 animals will be dehorned, giving an appeal figure of about \$400,000 (with experience, the cost per animal will decrease). There will no doubt be certain variables, but of one thing we can be sure — DEHORNING IS URGENT AND WILL BE EXPENSIVE.

WHY DEHORN RHINOS?

Dehorning has traditionally been a controversial topic, and its biological implications are not fully known. But today, in the face of massive poaching, one thing is certain: rhinos with horns end up dead. Their chances of survival are far greater once the horns have been removed. With the black rhino plunging towards extinction in the wild, the biological debate has been temporarily suspended in favour of imme-



diate dehorning. Provided the dehorning is widely publicised, there will be no incentive for poachers to kill the dehorned animals.

Previous experience includes the dehorning of black rhinos in Namibia, and of white rhinos in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, and results to date have been encouraging. Two dehorned white rhinos were killed in Hwange, but this seems to have been a "last try" before the gang left the park without making any further kills.

What has emerged, however, are large differences in costs between previous exercises and the recent Matusadona project. Namibian rhinos live in open, semi-desert habitats and are therefore easy to locate. White rhinos are found in groups. But in Matusadona — which is typical of most Zimbabwean habitats — the solitary black rhinos shelter in dense vegetation, making them extremely difficult to locate. This pushed the cost up from a first estimate of \$400 per animal to over \$1,000 per animal — and similar costs can be expected elsewhere in Zimbabwe. Hence the non-government organisations' high target figure of \$400,000 to cover the programme.

The initial dehorning programme in the Matusadona found only 16 rhinos, from an estimated population of some 200 about

3 years ago i.e. 85% had succumbed to the poacher's bullet. A mother and a calf were shot by Zambians just 10 minutes from the dehorning operation, and two other recently dehorned rhinos were shot the following week! Such is the desperation of the poachers. A month later a further 8 rhinos were located, and these have now been dehorned.

In neighbouring Chete Safari Area, the results were just as disappointing and only 20 have been located (10 for Australia?) from a once healthy population.

Dehorning of both white and black rhinos in Hwange National Park has been under way since late July and 3 poachers have recently been killed near the dehorning scene, and one large dehorned bull has been shot and a mere 3 inches of horn hacked from its skull together with its radio collar which had been fitted for monitoring purposes.

Dehorning is now continuing in the Zambezi Valley and Chizarira/Chirisa area. Every effort is being made for this programme to go without a hitch, but funds are needed to help finance this historic conservation move. SAVE has recently donated \$10,000 for helicopter hire.

Our thanks to Dick Pitman of the Zambezi Society for information for this article.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE AFRICA TRAVEL CENTRE

The Africa Travel centre at 456 Kent Street in Sydney has kindly offered to donate \$50.00 per person to SAVE for every tour booking made through their office by a SAVE member. They can be contacted on (02) 267 3048. Their staff have many years experience in planning tours to Africa, and are able to offer competitive prices. You would be crazy if you didn't contact them when you are planning your next African Adventure!

NATIONAL RHINO DAY

"Heritage or History?"

The various conservation organisations in Harare are organising a National Rhino Day for Saturday 7 November 1992, in which a large procession of floats will parade through the streets of Harare. These will have been designed by Harare school children, and prizes will be awarded to the best entries.

SAVE's contribution is to organise a series of petitions to President Mugabe, requesting urgent support be given by the Zimbabwe Government to protect their endangered wildlife. Petition forms are available from your local office.

RHINOS FOR AUSTRALIA

A Sydney-based film crew has been in Zimbabwe for six weeks filming "Rhino Rescue". Many hours of great footage have been filmed, showing the whole dehorning process, the capture from Chete Safari Area for Australia, and their subsequent transfer to holding pens on the outskirts of Harare. Unfortunately, the veterinary tests required by the Australian Quarantine Department have shown these animals to be carrying a parasite, theileria, and this is unacceptable to the Australian authorities. Hence, these 10 rhinos are "in limbo" for the present, and their future will be decided in the next month.

Hopefully, they can be transported to Cocos Island for two months quarantine and subsequently to Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, to start their new life as part of the captive breeding programme currently being organised in Zimbabwe, U.S.A. and Australia.

We love our black rhino

*With his magnificent horns and all
And that's why we're at the Sebel
At SAVE's special Gala Ball*

*We're here to raise some money
To stop the poachers come what may
To stop them from their killing
So our rhinos can live another day
You know, it's really quite absurd
They kill him for his horn
And ship it back to Asia
While we are left to mourn*

*The statistics are quite frightening
100,000 used to roam the plain
And now they are being slaughtered
Less than 3,000 of them remain*

*We need to raise lots of money
To protect our horny friend
To supply much needed equipment
So the Rhino Rangers can defend
So dig your hands in your pockets
When the Auction and the raffle come along
You can then dance the night away
And sing our Rhino Song*

Which goes

*Save the Rhino, Save the Rhino
Even if we have to dance till dawn
Save the Rhino, Save the Rhino
'cause he has really got the horn*

MELBOURNE NEWS

SAVE (VICTORIA) is now holding meetings on the second Tuesday of every second (even) month, to coincide with the Western Australian meetings.

At our most recent meetings, we expressed dismay at the deteriorating situation facing the black rhino. SAVE (Victoria) feels that more rhino in captive breeding programmes outside of Africa is needed, although we realise that this is difficult and expensive to organise. Nevertheless, we believe that support for captive breeding programmes should go hand-in-hand with support for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

We would like to organise more fundraising events, but we need more help from our members. Consequently, we have sent out a survey to gauge the availability of our members to assist us. With the weather improving in Melbourne, I will be returning to Camberwell Markets on Sunday mornings, in the middle near the food stalls.

If you would like to come along to help, to buy a T-Shirt or print, or to talk about SAVE, telephone me anytime on (03) 528 5462 to confirm when I will be there. As I am unable to go every week, I am interested to hear from members who could go in my place.

We hope to organise a film night or dinner in October or early November. I will be posting details to you soon and would like to see all members there.

Susan Pennicuk — SAVE (Victoria)

QUEENSLAND NEWS

The good news is that the planned closure of the Queensland Branch did not happen. A new committee was formed at the AGM on 29 August 1992 consisting of Carol Ryan as President and Pat Wetton Secretary/Treasurer together with a small group of dedicated volunteers.

The first venture of the new committee was to raise funds at the Spring Hill Fair which took place on the 12th and 13th of September in Brisbane. By this time the Queensland Branch had already organised new T-shirt designs and colours which proved very popular at the fair. The new rhino design is in great demand as are the new colours: khaki, navy and black in particular. RACHEL UNGER came up with the brilliant idea of producing a rhino and elephant tie-dye T-shirts and produced beautiful combinations of colours which have sold well. The President wishes to thank Rachel for the time she spent producing these T-shirts and for manning the stand. Thanks go too, to DONNA HARRIS and GEORGE, RICHARD and LORRIE BARZDO, ELSPETH and JOAN RICHARDSON, LISA WAKELING and PAT, PAUL and STEVE WETTON for the time spent helping to make the stand a success. The branch raised \$810 at the fair and orders are in for more T-shirts.

SYDNEY NEWS

The 1992 Rhino Ball was held at the Sebel Town House in Sydney on Saturday the 5th September, 1992.

The evening was a great success and a fun night was had by all. The purpose of organising such an event was to raise funds for equipment to help secure the future of the black rhino and to increase public awareness of SAVE and its goals.

To begin the evening our guests were greeted with "red carpet treatment" and a champagne reception in the foyer. Guests had a chance to mingle and to view the auction and raffle prizes and also an interesting display of articles and photos on dehorning rhinos in Zimbabwe.

On moving into the ballroom, guests were greeted by SAVE (New South Wales) Chairman, Richard Moras, who started the evening off with a welcoming speech and had us all up-ending our chairs searching for lucky door prizes. Richard then handed over to Liz Harris, our lovely MC for the evening. Liz reminded us all why funds were needed to help save the rhino and then lightened the mood with some funny anecdotes.

The musical entertainment for the evening was "Stolen Moments" — a very talented six piece band which played background music while we enjoyed a delicious three-course meal and a selection of nice wines. Annette Laws was once again gracious enough to entertain us with some very funny impressions, and also recited the Rhino Rhyme.

The next item on the programme was the auction, which was expertly conducted by Christopher Mourd, from Lawsons Auctioneers and Valuers, who kindly donated his time. In these times of economic recession, we would like to thank the many sponsors who donated items to be auctioned and raffled.

Our sponsors to thank include Sebel Town House for a weekend for two, Outland Expeditions for an adventure weekend, Doyle's Restaurant in Watsons Bay for a dinner for two, Ella Bache for \$250 worth of tote bags, The African Heritage Gallery for carvings, the artist Lindsay Gardam for his work "Road to Moremi" and finally Thor Thorsson for a limited edition print by Paul Bosman titled "Desert Elephants". Raffle prizes included the weekend at the Sebel, a coffee cruise for four people and wood carvings donated by Sleep City.

At midnight the Rhino Ball sadly drew to a close, but Studebaker's Nightclub was kind enough to invite all of the guests to kick-on with them until the small hours of the morning. The evening raised some \$5000 which will go towards saving the black rhino.

Thanks to the mighty efforts of the SAVE (New South Wales) Committee, the Sebel Town House and all of our generous sponsors. The 1992 Rhino Ball was a great success.

At the last Annual General Meeting we had some changes to the committee membership. New details are as follows: Chairman: Richard Moras, Secretary: Tracey Nyman, Treasurer: Jenny Dollen, Publicity Officer: Trina Melvaine, Committee Members: Julia Salnicki, Stephen Ward, Stewart Cooper and Andrew Mueller.

Trina Melvaine, Publicity Officer, SAVE (New South Wales)

SPECIAL U.N. RHINO ENVOY

Dr Esmond Bradley Martin, the world's leading authority on the illegal trafficking of rhino and elephant products, has recently been appointed to the post of Special Envoy to the United Nations Environmental Protection Programme, with special responsibility for the survival of the black rhino. Esmond is based in Nairobi and over the next few months has a busy programme scheduled for lobbying and advising various Asian and African nations involved in the slaughter of the rhino.

Good luck Esmond in this very challenging and important role.

QUIZ NIGHT

For our Perth supporters, a Quiz Night is being held at The Vegas Hotel, corner of Charles Street and Scarborough Beach Road on Wednesday, 21 October, 1992 at 7.30pm. You are invited to make up tables of eight, at \$10 per head, with the tickets being available from the Perth office on 444 6550. If you can't manage a whole table, then we can arrange for you to join one.

HAIR

The tribal love rock musical, *Hair*, originally seen by 2.2 million people in the 60's, is being re-presented at the Regal Theatre, Subiaco, after extended seasons in Melbourne and Sydney. With over 40 great hit songs, including the classics, *Let The Sun Shine In*, *Aquarius*, *Hair* and *Good Morning Star Shine*, this high energy production promises to be THE theatrical event of 1992.

SAVE is organising a group booking for Sunday, 25 October, 1992 at 5.00pm, followed by drinks and refreshments, hopefully with some of the cast. Tickets are \$45.00, fully inclusive, and we ask you to book now as reservations are strictly limited. This promises to be a great evening's entertainment!

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RAFFLE RESULTS

From March to June our members and other supporters helped to sell about 10,000 raffle tickets, the prizes being T-shirts autographed by different celebrities. The following winners were drawn on 29 June: M. Rhodes, Brisbane (John McEnroe), M. Armstrong, Perth (Lendl, Edberg, Agassi, etc.), R. Crittal, Perth (David Gower), G.R. Davidson, Perth (Tom Jones), L. Hammond, Perth (12 leading golfers), W. Cook, Perth (Dire Straits), P. Carroll, Perth (Cliff Richard), Chips, Perth (Boris Becker/Steffi Graf), C. Woodford, Perth (English Cricket Team), T. James, Perth (New Kids on the Block), A. Gibb, Perth (Steffi Graf), J. Watson-Will, Brisbane (John Farnham), K. Douglas, Perth (Bryan Adams), N. O'Brien (Australian Cricket Team), S. Stallard, Perth (Steffi Graf).

The net proceeds from this raffle were \$9200 — thanks for your support. Most of the winners came from Perth because 80 per cent of the tickets were sold in the West.

WIN TICKETS TO ZIMBABWE

Another raffle with a far better prize, a trip for two to Zimbabwe, will soon be launched in Sydney and we again seek everyone's support. First prize is two return tickets to Zimbabwe, on this occasion kindly donated by Air Zimbabwe, who in conjunction with Qantas, make a weekly flight to Harare. This includes two nights accommodation at the new Elephant Hills Hotel at Victoria Falls, donated by Zimbabwe Sun Hotels. Second prize is \$2000 worth of car alarm equipment, courtesy of Rhino Car Alarms in Sydney. We again thank our generous sponsors.

In the near future it is quite likely that books of tickets will be sent to our members — they will sell themselves at only \$2.00 each!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Here are the financial statements for SAVE (Australia) for the year ending 31 May 1992, as required under our Constitution. (This does not include full details of accounts for Queensland and New South Wales.)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Sales revenue	21,227	Goods to Zimbabwe	56,966
Collections and Donations	14,632	Goods to Namibia	2,302
Rhino cash collections	10,529	Cost of goods sold	11,758
Perth and Homes Shows	7,617	Fund raising expenses	3,134
Safari proceeds	7,149	General administration	2,517
Raffle proceeds	5,897	Surplus carried forward	24,615
Membership and renewals	5,100		
Interest received	556		
Transfers from NSW, Vic, Qld	28,585		
	<u>\$101,292</u>		<u>\$101,292</u>

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 May 1992

Unallocated profits		<u>\$32,124</u>
Non-current assets:		
Equipment	9,940	
Current assets:		
Cash at bank	17,563	
Stock	7,530	
TOTAL ASSETS:		35,033
Less: Current liabilities		<u>2,909</u>
STEVE DEACON, Treasurer, SAVE (Australia).		<u>\$32,124</u>

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I would like to join your worthy cause and help to save the endangered rhinos. I understand that I will receive your quarterly newsletter and relevant material. My cheque for \$25, or more if I wish, is enclosed.

OR Charge my Bankcard Mastercard Visa Expiry Date:

Card Number

Signature:

FIRST NAME: SURNAME:

ADDRESS: P/C:

PH: (H) (W) OCCUP: