



NEWSLETTER ¹⁹³

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SAVE AFRICAN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The rhino situation in Zimbabwe is now very grave. As a result of six months of wholesale slaughter in certain areas of the country, numbers have dropped to 250, two-thirds of these in private conservancies and the balance in national parks.

It is difficult to understand the Zimbabwe Government's failure to provide the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management with adequate funding. Despite the fact that tourism and wildlife-related industries are the country's third largest generators of foreign exchange, the department receives only 10% of this income to manage its precious resources.

The 250 game scouts retrenched last August have still not been reinstated, despite the Government's public declarations confirming their crucial role in anti-poaching patrols.

Pity the last 60 rhino in Zimbabwe national parks, surrounded by the carcasses of their fellow creatures. They have so far dodged the poachers bullets — but for how much longer?

We know that the country is in recession; nevertheless, we appeal to its Government to use whatever resources may be available to enable National Parks to continue the fight to save the few remaining rhino. One can't help drawing parallels with the fate of the dinosaurs — now enjoying a surge of popularity through the film "Jurassic Park". The rhino's story may well end the same way unless strong and effective action is taken fast. Already a number of international organisations are questioning the value of pouring more aid into a losing campaign.

Zimbabwe visit

During the Zimbabwe visit of the SAVE Executive in June, we held meetings with 26 different groups and individuals connected with rhino survival. The meetings usually began at 8.00 am and continued well into the night, and we heard a range of views, returning to Perth with mixed emotions to make the difficult decision on how best to use our funds in the future.

In the past, we have given our support almost exclusively to the National Park, while acknowledging the merits of private sanctuaries to which a number of rhinos have now been relocated by National Parks. In view of the continuing slaughter in the parks, we have had to rethink our funding policy, and now believe we should support both the private conservancies and national parks.

After much discussion and careful consideration of the information gathered during the visit, the Executive passed a motion — on my casting vote — to spend 75% of our funds on National Parks projects, and the balance on conservancies. We will, however, be closely monitoring the situation over the next few months.

One National Parks project to which we have given our support is the Matusadona Intensive Protection Zone — one of four IPZs recently designated under a new strategy designed to give maximum protection and security to rhino remaining in national parks.

The conservancies we have chosen to assist are Munyati and Sebakwe in the Midlands, and Imire Game Ranch in Wedza where we are helping build new bomas for the imminent birth of two rhino calves.

To the following people who gave us help and hospitality during our stay, we send our heartfelt thanks:

Ian Piercy from Zambezi Hunting Safaris; Peter & Jane Seymour-Smith from Iwaba Game Ranch; Norman & Barbara Travers from Imire Game Ranch; Ken & Diane Drummond from Bubianga Conservancy and Pookie Darlow, the pilot; Miles & Shelley Barber from Barberton; The Holiday Inn for the supply of accommodation; Jean Friend for the supply of a car.

Thank you, Steve

We are sorry to lose the services of Steve Deacon, SAVE treasurer for the past two years, a period of frenetic financial activity. Thank you, Steve for the many hours of your time given freely to SAVE; your efforts have been very much appreciated.

Donations to be tax deductible

At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 24th August, a resolution was passed establishing a SAVE Donation Fund. The fund complies with all the criteria laid down by the Commonwealth Government and will, when ratified, allow all donations of more than \$2 to be tax deductible.

In our next edition we will give full details to enable members and friends to take advantage of this new "bonus" — hopefully by increasing the size of donations!

"Run for Rhino"

As most of you will have seen in the press, SAVE member Caron Musson completed a 320km marathon from Perth to Augusta during the last fortnight in August (see story on page 3).

We congratulate Caron on her fine achievement, dedication and determination and her excellent back-up team of family and friends for their help and support.

Royal Show Stand

As we have done over the past 7 years, SAVE will have a display stand in its usual position in the MacFarlane Pavilion at the Perth Show. Don't forget to drop in with your friends and buy some of our newest merchandise, including a wonderful set of 4 black and white prints, 100% cotton crocheted table cloths, bedspreads and tops, plus a range of latest designer safari gear from Zimbabwe.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

NICHOLAS S DUNCAN
President

"SAVE" FACT FINDING MISSION TO ZIMBABWE - MY CONCLUSIONS

Deep concern at the failure of the Zimbabwe Government to implement its conservation policies to protect its wildlife, prompted the organisation of a fact-finding mission to visit Zimbabwe to reassess the situation at close quarters. It is obviously important to ensure that funds raised by SAVE will be capitalised upon for the greatest benefit of threatened wildlife, particularly the black rhino - which is on the brink of extinction.

Committee members, Margaret Prior, Nicholas Duncan and myself, also Angus Horwood an independent, were the SAVE delegation members who journeyed to Zimbabwe.

Prior to leaving Perth on June 3rd for a weeks visit, a very busy schedule of meetings was arranged, representing a broad cross-section of Zimbabwe residents, all of whom are committed, in one way or another, to conserving endangered African wildlife. In fact - 26 meetings in 7 days - at Government ministerial level, National Parks & Wildlife Management hierarchy, Directors and Chairmen of private conservancies, wildlife and environmental consultants, Ecologists, non-government wildlife organisation executives, wildlife veterinarians, representatives of W.W.F., Zimbabwe Nature Conservation Trust Executive Director, and others.

Already, the guestimated black rhino figures quoted in June are hopelessly out of date. The slaughter continues at an alarming rate in National Parks and, at a recent 5-day September rhino congress in Harare, the startling updated conservative figure presented of black rhinos remaining in Zimbabwe National Parks was about 84! (Back in June, the quoted figure was approximately 150).

The SAVE tradition has been to direct all support to Zimbabwe National Parks, to assist in saving the rhino, but National Parks have failed consistently over a long period of time in their efforts, and the evidence is there for all the world to see.

However, in the past few years, National Parks have, on scientifically based advice, translocated a number of rhinos out of the vulnerable Parks and onto private conservancies for protection. The animals, in fact, always remain the property of National Parks, but are in safe-keeping on the conservancies. These conservancies consist of groups of private land owners who have combined their properties to collectively manage wildlife on a sustainable basis and provide habitat for breeding and protection of endangered wildlife species.

This is "insurance" if you like, or a "bank", and this strategy of allowing the private conservancies to protect these animals will be the last chance for the rhino to survive in Zimbabwe. I feel this strongly - along with countless others. Look at the prime examples of Kenya's success with its private conservancies.

However, conservation is not cheap... and it is a difficult battle. With the best intentions in the world, but financially affected by Zimbabwe's devastating drought last year, the private conservancy people desperately need support and equipment assistance and, importantly, a show of support and encouragement. These people have to be respected for their steely resolve and will to protect the rhino. Their responsibility is great with over 160 black rhinos (as well as white rhinos) in their keeping.

I think it is imperative that the SAVE committee and members recognise this strategy and meet the critical challenge. It must remember its constitutional ideals and direct its fundings for the greatest benefit of the black rhino, at the moment.

SAVE must, at this 11th hour, give its support AT LEAST - EQUALLY - to both National Parks AND the private conservancies before it is too late for the Zimbabwe black rhino. REMEMBER... only 84 black rhinos are left in National Parks, where there are limited resources and commitment to protect this pitiful rhino remnant. They have failed even with injections of outside funds and support. The private conservancies are the last hope - and they are desperate for help to continue their success in protecting and breeding up rhino numbers.

Cheryl Davenport,
Secretary for SAVE (Australia)

NSW NEWS

Rhino Raffle!

What A Success!! Well the selling of raffle tickets for SAVE (NSW) is over for the moment, and on 16th June the draw was held in Sydney.

There were around 30 guests at the draw-committee, SAVE members, friends and all sorts of hopeful winners! The office of Africa Travel Centre was a very appropriate venue with lots of Africabilia decorating the room and setting the scene. Nicky Keegan, the Sales Manager for Air Zimbabwe, picked the winning ticket from a huge barrel and our congratulations go to Therese Kallis from Perth who won the 1st prize of 2 tickets on Air Zimbabwe return to Harare plus 2 free nights at the deluxe Elephant Hills Hotel at Victoria Falls; compliments of Air Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Sun (Peter Gisborne and Associates).

Therese thought we were joking when we

called her on the night to advise her she had won! Have a wonderful trip Therese and don't forget the postcard!

We were all winners that evening, apart from our actual prizewinners, as, when all the counting was done, we raised just over \$18,000. Some of this money has been allocated for equipment to help the Black Rhino Breeding Programme at Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo. The remainder will go to purchase much needed equipment and supplies for various anti-poaching activities in Southern Africa.

The evening was very social and a good chance to meet members - especially Lyndsay Gardam who was with us from Tasmania, have a drink and enjoy the excitement of the draw.

Many, many thanks from all of us at SAVE (NSW) to all those people who sold and bought tickets and a very big thank you to our sponsors,

without whom there would have been no raffle - they are as follows:

AIR ZIMBABWE
ZIMBABWE SUN
(Peter Gisborne & Associates)
RHINO INTERNATIONAL GAR ALARMS
ANDREW THOMASSON
(Wildlife Photographer)

NSW New Address
New South Wales Branch
P.O. Box 374
Drummoyne, NSW 2047
Tel: (02) 661 4036

EXECUTIVE 1993/1994

The following Executive Committee was elected at the AGM on 29th June:

President	—	Nicholas Duncan
Vice President	—	John Coombes
Treasurer	—	Guy Tristram
Secretary	—	Cheryl Davenport
General Duties	—	Margaret Prior

We welcome to the Executive John Coombes, who brings to his position a wealth of knowledge and experience, particularly in the fields of financial planning and accountancy. At the same time, we thank the rest of the committee for their hard work during the year. Without them, SAVE could not have functioned and Africa's wildlife would be the loser.

RUN FOR RHINO SPONSORS

Warmest thanks to the many sponsors who helped make the run such a success:

BP Oil
Jim Kidd Sports
Classical Communications
Admiral Motor Inn, Bunbury
Burswood Hotel
Westralian Flora Exports
Village Roadshow
New Southside Mitsubishi
Ravenswood Hotel
Paradise Motor Inn, Busselton
Haskins Garden Restaurant
Everden Park Cottages
Augusta Hotel
Peter & June Nel
Ocean Clipper Hotel, Rockingham
Wagon Wheels Motel, Harvey
Karridale Cottages

RUNNING FOR THE RHINO

It all began at a Sunday picnic in June - with an idle chat about a book. The book was an inspiring account of a woman who walked across America, and it planted a seed that germinated fast. By the following evening my niece, 26-year-old Caron Musson, was phoning her mother Dee to say she had decided to do a long distance run to raise funds to save the rhino - in August.

Mum was horrified - then got interested and offered to drive the support vehicle; Aunt was jubilant and offered to do the publicity; the rest of the family were keen to hand out advice on anything from ways of hardening one's feet to the kind of walkman music best suited to marathons.

Once the route - from Perth to Augusta - had been established, the wheels began to turn. Sponsors were approached, schools along the route contacted, advice sought from Robert di Castello and other marathon authorities, and Dee and I forced ourselves to take two days off to travel to the beautiful Southwest, staying overnight in a friend's sumptuous Yallingup beachhouse while we "sussed out" the course. Well - someone had to do it.

We checked the mileage for each day's run, made contact with local supermarket managers, and generally familiarised ourselves with the route and any potential problems. It was obvious that the worst part would be Day One - along the ugly commercial strip of Albany Highway between Perth and Kelmscott.

Caron's first challenge came well before the start of the run. Newspaper interviews were no problem, but once the live radio talks began, so did the 'collywobblers'. The first few were the worst, especially Peter Newman's 6PR breakfast show - Caron developed an upset tummy and had little sleep the night before. From the professional manner in which she conducted herself, however, no one would have suspected her stagefright, and within 10 days she sounded as though she'd been doing it for years.

A light rain had just stopped falling on the morning of Monday 16 August as a small group of family, friends and SAVE supporters arrived at

MacCallum Park in South Perth where the run was to be launched by Minister for the Environment Kevin Minson. A couple of fellow-runners from the West Australian lined up with Caron to accompany her for the first few kilometres out of Perth and, as her audience chanted the countdown, the opening bars of 'Chariots of Fire' surged into the cool morning air. She was off, escorted from the park by stalwart SAVE member Tim Scarrott on his motorbike accompanied, in the side car, by Maggie the dog and an enormous plastic rhino.

Caron's main concern regarding the run had always been her feet. Born with a form of club foot, she had been warned by doctors she would never be able to enjoy an active sporting life - but this she and her mother had ignored and she had become a competent hockey and squash player, and in later years, a runner. Her bumps, as she called them, troubled her from time to time and, as a result, there was a large question mark hanging over the Run for Rhino project - would the bumps hamper her on such a long run?

In fact they behaved beautifully, but the usual marathon runners' problems gradually revealed themselves in various painful ways. First the knees, then the blisters, then an infected toe that became so swollen and painful that she was close to tears as she hobbled into Capel on Day 9. A hurried evening visit to Busseton Hospital enabled the resident doctor to drill a hole through the toenail to release the pressure.

A daily phone-in was arranged with the ABC in Bunbury to keep the public up to date with her progress, and Caron quickly became so blasé about talking live on radio that she could be seen early each morning, sitting on the side of the road putting on her track shoes, her mobile phone hunched against one ear as she chatted casually with Breakfast Show presenter Rob Murray.

Highlights of the fortnight: schoolchildren lining the bridge outside Capel to cheer Caron into the small town, 'a garbo' who stopped to give them a dirty old bucket full of one and two-cent pieces, the lady who drove from Donnybrook to offer Caron a carton of homeopathic medicines for her foot, the many hotel and bed-and-breakfast owners who provided their hospitality free of

charge - and the overwhelming generosity of the people of the Southwest.

This warmth and friendliness was much in evidence when Caron, the support crew, and a group of friends who had come down to run the last 50 kilometres, finally made an exhilarating entry into Augusta on Sunday 30 August in driving rain and icy wind - to the beat of Tina Turner and 'Simply the Best'. It was, apparently, 'normal' Augusta winter weather - but the chill was immediately dissolved in the warmth of the welcome. A lively band of local Hash Harriers formed the advance guard, while a small but enthusiastic reception committee waited in Bill Hillier Park with posters, an enormous bouquet of kangaroo paws, a \$100 cheque from the local Lions' Club, plus countless spontaneous donations. There followed a champagne lunch arranged by our Augusta contact, Graham Whitehouse, with the help of friends - and we thank them for their extreme kindness to a group of people they had never met.

To date, the total raised by 'Run for Rhino' is \$5,700, but money is still trickling in and our sincere thanks go to all who contributed including the sponsors lists on page 2. But SAVE gained more than a very useful sum of money from the marathon. Caron's venture featured in almost every Southwest paper along the route; she was heard daily on the Southwest ABC, on Perth talk shows and the ABC news; three stories appeared in the West Australian, and ABC TV in Bunbury gave comprehensive coverage. I think we can safely say that, as a result, hundreds more West Australians are now familiar with the plight of the rhino.

You would think, wouldn't you, that anyone who has run just 320 km would be content to hang up their boots for a while. But Caron, and fellow-runner Debbie Kroukamp, are already planning another. The venue could be the Eastern States, Africa or the UK - the ideas are bubbling away.

Wherever it is, Dee and I have already offered our services as support crew and publicity coordinator - we haven't had this much fun in years.

Maureen de la Harpe

SAVE AFRICAN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE AUSTRALIA INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 1993

INCOME		\$	This Year \$	EXPENDITURE		This Year \$
Memberships/Repeats			4,590.00			
Collections/Donations			12,487.02			
Functions -	Gower/Bollinger Dinner	9,346.00		Functions	Gower/Bollinger Dinner	8,121.50
	Perth Show Money Box	2,640.26			Perth Show	1,392.76
	Quiz Night	2,020.00			Quiz Night	
	"Out of Order"	2,770.00			"Out of Order"	2,480.00
	"Hair"	1,460.00	16,235.26		"Hair"	1,298.00
Raffles -	1991/92	3,756.43		Raffles -	Homes Show	80.00
	1992/93	5,070.00	8,826.43		1991/92	68.20
Sales of Goods	"Out of Order"	1,295.00		Cost of Goods for Sale	1992/93	88.20
	"Hair"	570.00			-Caps etc	1,243.00
	Gower/Bollinger Dinner	9,423.50			Prints	708.00
	Homes Exhibition	3,036.30			T & Sweat Shirts	12,322.95
	Perth Show	9,280.00			General	1,040.78
	Quiz Night	648.35				
	General	20,525.81	44,834.96	Administration -	Postage, Printing & Advertising	
Safari 1993			15,000.00		Travel	1,702.85
Donations (AustL Conservation Foundation)			1,092.60		Bank Fees & Other	3,376.00
Interest Received			1,127.73			1,303.47
Rhino Collections			927.63	Transfer to NSW		
Transfer from Queensland			2,500.00	Goods to Zimbabwe -	Clothing	550.00
					Computer & Electronic Equip	1,269.50
					Vehicle & Other Spares	13,713.19
					Special Equipment	1,490.00
					Helicopter Hire	5,279.87
					Tools	6,279.08
					Other	3,023.01
					Reimburse incorrect receipt 1991/92	2,908.51
					EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	45,542.17
						31,604.65
						2,908.51
						45,542.17
						\$117,212.83
						\$117,212.83

Prepared by Stephen J. Deacon ASA Hon. Treasurer 1991-1993

ZIMBABWE UPDATE

ZIMBABWE UPDATE

The following extracts from the Harare daily newspaper, *The Herald*, encapsulate the desperate situation in Zimbabwe. If you wish to read the complete articles, phone the SAVE office and we will be happy to post them out to you.

WHITE RHINO IN HWANGE PARK ALMOST WIPED OUT

Almost all white rhino in Hwange National Park have been wiped out, with a recent survey finding just two out of the 60 to 70 that once roamed the park, sources said this week.

White rhino are even more vulnerable to poach-

ing than the black rhino that have been severely hit in Zimbabwe. The white rhino is more placid than its bad-tempered cousin and, being a grazer, is often seen in the open grasslands.

So vulnerable is this species to hunters with modern firearms that, with two small exceptions in Natal and Kenya, all Africa's white rhino, including Zimbabwe's were wiped out late last century and early this century.

*Extract — The Herald
Friday, 20th August, 1993*

NEW STRATEGY NEEDED TO SAVE WILDLIFE

Our report yesterday that only two white rhino remain of the 60 to 70 animals known to be

roaming Hwange National Park just four months ago, has to horrify lovers of wild life the world over.

And after the horror, the outrage.

There can be no other reaction to decades of careful conservation to rebuild the white rhino population after the gentle, trusting beasts were all but wiped out by hunters at the turn of the century.

But how was it allowed to happen? Do we still have a Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management?

The paltry Budget appropriation allotted the department in proportion to the earnings of a tourist industry, in large part dependent on one of our valuable natural resources, our wildlife, has been a scandal for years.

*Extract — The Herald
Saturday, 21st August, 1993*

WORLD PREMIERE OF 'FLIGHT OF THE RHINO' ON SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER 1993

No other large animal in the world is being wiped out at the rate of Africa's black rhinoceros. "Flight of the Rhino" filmed in Zimbabwe, shows the extraordinary efforts now being made to save the species from extinction. The premier of this remarkable film will be held at:

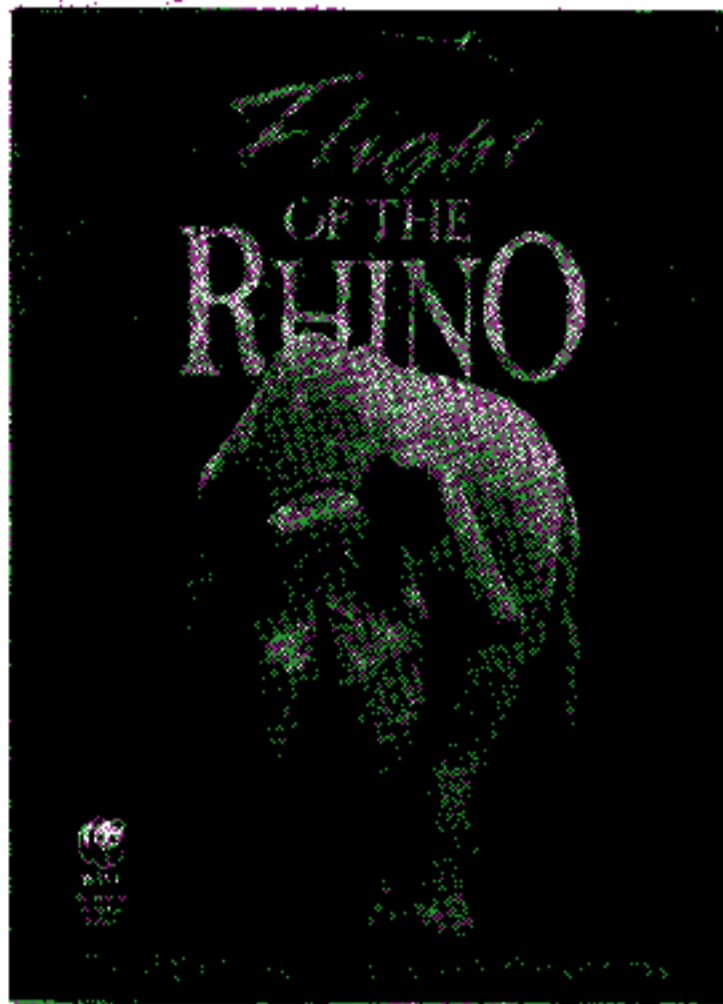
**Village Cinema, Dalkeith,
on Sunday 10th October
at 4.00 p.m.**

Proceeds from the evening will be used to help finance current projects to save the last remaining rhinos in the wild. After the film, various items including splendid carvings, original oil paintings, and celebrity-autographed T-shirts will be auctioned.

Tickets are \$25 each (children \$10) and should be ordered without delay from the SAVE office, as seating is strictly limited. A light supper and refreshments will be served.

For bookings phone 444 1545, 444 6550 or after hours on 407 5171 (Cheryl Davenport) or 328 5489 (Guy Tristram)

The video, a National Geographic/Sky Visuals production is also available from the Perth office at \$40 including postage and packing. Simply ring up or mail in your cheque. "Flight of the Rhino" would make an ideal Christmas present for any wildlife enthusiast.



NGOs THREATEN TO QUIT WAR AGAINST POACHERS

Zimbabwe's threatened wildlife heritage face an even greater crisis as international non-governmental organisations threaten to withdraw support following what they see as the Government's abandonment of the fight against the ever-increasing poaching assault.

Both local and international conservation groups have heavily criticised the Government for its apparent unwillingness to provide adequate funds to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management.

It is now understood that some of these groups have said that they see no reason for pouring money into a failing operation, and would prefer to use their limited resources to help those countries whose governments fully back the struggle against poaching.

*Extract — The Herald
Wednesday, 25th August, 1993*

PLANS TO SET UP PROTECTION ZONES FOR RHINO

The Government and non-governmental organisations will soon establish protection zones in National Parks to intensify the fight against poachers who have almost wiped out the country's rhino population.

In an interview in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe National Conservation Trust ecologist, Mr Mike Jones, said the intensive protection zones would ensure intensified detection and follow-up efforts of poachers with assistance from the police, army and the air force.

The protection zones will be for intensification of follow-ups and to enforce anti-poaching efforts with assistance from police, army and air force.

Under the IPZ programme, park wardens and patrol teams working in less vulnerable areas would be moved to those that needed protection most.

The Government is also understood to be considering giving the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management an additional \$14 million to ensure maximum protection of the endangered species.

*Extract — The Herald
Thursday, 23rd September, 1993*

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 \$35, 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.

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