



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1997 VOL. 9 Nos. 2 & 3

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NO REPORTED RHINO POACHING FOR 3 YEARS

We are proud and happy to announce that it is now 3 years since the last known rhino poaching took place in Zimbabwe. This was when a bull, cow and calf were slain in Chizarira National Park at the end of February 1994. There have been some deaths due to natural causes and stress related sickness, but more importantly, there have been more than 40 births. Thus, the Zimbabwe black rhino population has increased from a low of 270 in 1994 to an estimated 315 at present. Long may this positive trend continue and we compliment the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management for their sound policies and practices which have enabled this upward spiral to occur.

Rhino Conservation Plan

So that our readers can be re acquainted with the situation, there were 10 years of wholesale slaughter throughout Zimbabwe, in which the black rhinos' numbers decreased from 2,500 to 270. In September 1993, the Rhino Conservation Plan was implemented, whereby 4 Intensive Protection Zones (IPZ) were created in Sinamatella, Matusadona, Matobo and Chipinge. In the preceding few years some 150 rhinos had been relocated from the Zambezi Valley into private ranch consortiums, known as conservancies. These are Save Valley, Bubiana,

Gourlays, Chiredzi River and the Midlands. There are also two small breeding centres at Imire Game Ranch and Chipingali.

At the same time it was also decided to export some rhinos to USA and Australia for ex-situ breeding programmes and most readers know of the involvement of the Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo.

It is thought that the marked decline in poaching is a direct consequence of the above distribution policies, together with the increased field protection and the de-horning programme of 1992/1993.

Recent Donations

The SAVE FOUNDATION has actively supported all these moves, and amongst other donations, has been responsible for the following; 60 rhino radio tracking collars, 50 Motorola radios and batteries, 2 base stations, 2 outboard motors and 1 diesel marine engine, 40 GPS units for accurate sighting locations, 300 used tyres, 300 pairs of boots, 300 pairs of overalls, 120 backpacks, 150 mosquito nets, 200 bivouacs, and many other necessary spare parts. We have also provided large amounts of used clothing for the rhino trackers and their families, together with the communal lands people surrounding Bubiana.

And prior to all this, we had supplied 5 new Land Cruisers, a second hand Land

Rover, a second hand Bedford truck, 10 reconditioned engines and gearboxes, 15 outboard motors 15 motorbikes and tons of spare parts for all of the above. Over the years we have been very generously supported with air freight by **Affretair** and **Qantas**.

All of this totals well in excess of \$725,000 of equipment. In Zimbabwe our reputation for practical work and assistance is fast growing.

We intend to continue to work closely with the Ministry and the Department and to continue our policy of providing equipment and items to aid the patrol and protection work for the men in the field.

We now have branches in all the capital cities and we invite our interstate readers to make themselves known to their local volunteers and thus increase the effectiveness of the SAVE FOUNDATION within Australia. So please introduce yourself to Lindsay and Penny in Sydney, Sue in Melbourne, Andrew in Brisbane and John in Adelaide.

Allan Border bats for rhinos

Many of our readers would have seen the "Today Tonight" programme on Channel 7 last October, featuring Allan Border, his two children and Chewore, the young rhino at Matusadona IPZ. Thanks Allan for your commitment to our cause and long may the association continue.

What is thought to be the last remaining rhino in the Zambezi Valley, probably Chewore's father, was successfully captured in early February and translocated to Matusadona, where he is now starting his new life and adapting very well to the new environment.

This was an amazing team effort by Glenn Tatham, Andy Searle, Chris Foggin, the rhino capture team and the local tracking scouts, to combine together to locate the old bull, dart him and transport him through flooded rivers and slippery terrain. It was a great credit to all of the above and exemplifies their dedication to the rhino

cause. Congratulations, fellows, on a job well done and we hope that you can be successful in finding the few other isolated rhinos and taking them to a better-protected area.

Nicholas S. Duncan

BLACK RHINO BREEDING SUCCESS - DUBBO

The Black Rhino Conservation Programme at Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, received huge encouragement on 25 May, 1996 with the first successful birth of a rhino calf.

Kalungwizi - one of the female black rhinos transferred from Zimbabwe to Western Plains Zoo in February 1993 - gave birth to a male calf after a pregnancy lasting 15 months. The calf was sired by Siabuwe, the breeding-age male imported from Fossil Rim Wildlife Centre, Texas, in December 1994.

The calf's birth represents significant progress in international efforts to reverse the decline of the critically endangered black rhino. The establishment in 1993 of a conservation programme at Western Plains Zoo ensured Australia would play a vital role in this world conservation initiative. The programme is conducted

in collaboration with the International Rhinoceros Foundation, the Zimbabwe government and complementary captive breeding programmes in the USA.

NEW BIRTH AT IMIRE

We are delighted to announce the arrival of a new baby rhino, the proud parents being Amber and Noddy, born at the Imire Game Ranch on 11 February this year. We join with the Travers family, Norman, Gill, Barbara, John and Simon, in celebrating this long-awaited calf. Their first calf, Umgufu, was born early last year, a son for Cuckoo, and has now been relocated in Matusadona where he is learning to be a wild rhino.

Nduna and Cindy, Imire's lions, are now the proud parents of 3 cubs, which are being hand raised by Norman and Gill. Cindy and Nduna now have their own 5 acre paddock in the middle of the game park and Nduna is often seen sitting on top of a beautiful granite kopje proudly surveying his domain.

Imire is a must for all visitors to Zimbabwe and it is always our first stop on our annual Zimbabwe safari. It gives a great introduction to all African animals, and close encounters with rhinos and elephants.

CRICKET LEGENDS RAISE \$40,000 FOR RHINOS

The second SAVE FOUNDATION cricket fundraiser was played in Harare in late September and featured 3 teams of former cricketing stars, one representing the World, one from South Africa and a local Zimbabwean team. The latest form of cricket, Super Eights, was played for the first time in Africa and proved to be a tremendous crowd pleaser. Each side played each other in the preliminary rounds and then the final was between the Zimbabwe team and the World team, with the home side narrowly winning in the last over. A total of 1,420 runs was scored in the 4 matches and the crowd had their money's worth by seeing legends such as David Gower, Allan Border, Graeme Pollock, Mike Procter, Deryck Murray, Collis King, Carl Rackemann, Vince Van Der Bijl and many other former cricketers, all of whom so very kindly donated their services for this carnival event. This was only made possible due to some magnificent sponsorship from

Zimbabwe Sun Hotels (John Smith), British Airways (Patrick Raftery), Zimbabwe Express Airlines (Patrick Mangwiro), BHP Minerals Zimbabwe (Colin Palethorpe), Delta Gold (Roy Pitchford), National Breweries (Cecil Gombera), Comair (Mary Smith), Musango Safari Camp (Steve Edwards) and Malindi Safari Camp (Martin Doggrell).

25 corporate packages were sold for the cricket. The guest speakers at the pre-match dinner were David Gower and Vince Van Der Bijl, both of whom made very witty and entertaining speeches and provided tremendous enjoyment for the 250 guests. An auction was conducted to raise more funds and this netted in excess of Z\$130,000 (\$A17,000). Our thanks go to the donors - Victoria Falls Safari Lodge; Ulusaba Game Reserve; Zimbabwe Express Airlines; Qantas Airways; Novotel Perth; Novotel Twin Waters; Nick Price (autographed golf putter) and Steve Rhodes (limited

edition print). It would seem that the total proceeds from the dinner and the cricket have exceeded Z\$300,000 (A\$40,000) and this was a magnificent project for which our thanks go to all the players and all the generous sponsors, without which this could not possibly have taken place. Congratulations to John Traicos and his victorious Zimbabwe team, who received the silver Patrick Mavros trophies, and to Andy Waller who won the British Airways 'Man of the Series' award.

The match was played at Harare Sports Club and their Cricket Committee, under the chairmanship of Matthew Streeton, is to be congratulated for making the ground look so splendid and for taking care of all local matters.

The SAVE FOUNDATION is hosting a sponsors thank-you dinner in Harare on Tuesday 22 April.

THE NEXT 2 PAGES OF ARTICLES ARE EDITED EXTRACTS FROM MAGAZINES PUBLISHED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS, TO WHICH WE OFFER OUR THANKS.

- **RHINO AND ELEPHANT FOUNDATION**
- **TRAFFIC**
- **DAVID SHEPHERD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION.**

We thank Joanna Trenka for her work with these articles.

RHINO CONSERVATION IN AFRICA - AN OVERVIEW

Over the last three decades, the black rhino has continued to be an example of an animal requiring urgent action to save it from extinction.

Between 1961 and 1994, the World Wildlife Fund has donated US\$13 million to rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia and also pioneered investigations into the illegal rhino horn trade.

White rhinos in both Uganda and the Sudan were protected by anti-poaching patrols quite successfully, until both countries fell into civil wars.

Early rhino translocation in Zimbabwe proved to be problematical after initial success due to some disunity within park management.

However, some success stories are to be told, as in Kenya where electric fencing of Nakuru National Park established Africa's first government rhino sanctuary and where today, the rhino population has increased and remains well-protected. Also, in Garamba National Park, WWF helped with funding in 1980 to provide intensive protection measures and the rhino population increased dramatically. However, Sudanese refugees moved into the area in 1994 and poaching increased, so emergency funds had to be allocated to increase patrols.

Over the past 35 years, WWF and other worldwide conservation groups have been fighting for the survival of the

rhino. Although the rhino has virtually disappeared from many African countries since 1961, it has increased in South Africa, Namibia and stabilised in Kenya. African governments have spent large sums of money in trying to save their rhinos, but poaching and poverty often defeat them.

RHINO CONSERVATION IN ASIA

Support for government programmes in Nepal, India and Malaysia has been very successful, as rhinos have increased in number in many parks. The Javan rhino in Indonesia has grown in numbers since late 1960 and the number of Sumatran rhinos is decreasing less rapidly.

In addition to the discovery of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, it was thought that there were still a few in Java. Since WWF provided equipment, and supported Professor and Dr Schenkel in their work, rhino numbers have risen to about 50, probably the carrying capacity of the Ujung Kulon area.

As to the Sumatran rhino, little is known, except that there was thought to be up to 100 in 1970. Sumatran rhinos were also found in N-W Borneo and funded by WWF in their protection and management, habitat destruction and ecological study. A specialist in rhino conservation was also trained.

The greater one-horned rhino is increasing its numbers gradually in Nepal and India, despite intermittent waves of poaching.

An American geographer, Dr Esmond Bradley Martin, has researched globally the international trade in rhino products, and his findings have built up important information banks, which greatly assist conservation.

RHINOS ELECTROCUTED

The greater one-horned rhinos faces a continuing poaching threat in India, where new killing methods that include electrocution are being employed. A new Species in Danger Report released by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring organisation, says that poachers are electrocuting rhinos by dangling wires connected to high tension powerlines across rhino paths.

Shooting remains the most common method of poaching, and pit traps are also used.

The report "Under Siege: Poaching and Protection of Greater One-horned Rhinoceroses in India" says that only two viable populations of rhinos survive in India, with a total population of around 1,500, approximately half that of tigers. "The worst rhino crisis is now in Asia, where all three surviving species are endangered," says Elizabeth Kemf, species policy and information officer at WWF International.

India's illegal domestic trade in rhino horn is small. The horn is used in six principal Tibetan medicines taken for a range of health problems, and small flakes of horn are used elsewhere in rings, mainly to ward off evil spirits. In addition, there are reports of militants using components from rhinos' horn as a dye or fixative in the production of counterfeit money. However, most rhino horns in trade in India are destined for the international black market.

Among the measures recommended in the TRAFFIC report are the removal of all high tension wires within at least three kilometres of parks, or, if this is not possible, patrolling the areas as a priority.

POACHING FIGURES FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S RHINOS

In South Africa between 1990 and late 1995, six black rhinos and 27 white rhinos were lost to poachers in areas managed by the Natal Parks Board. Of the 66 horns to be accounted for (two per animal), a total of 26 were either recovered, had not been removed from the animals or had been lost by natural causes. Estimating an average weight of 3.5kg per horn, some 140kg of rhino horn remain unaccounted for. In a few of the poaching incidents, small pieces of skin had been removed from the dead animals.

A total of 32 rhinos were poached during the same period in Kruger National Park, and 13 in the Transvaal region. This represents a total of 71 white rhinos and seven black rhinos. South Africa has not conducted a programme of dehorning its rhino population.

ELEPHANTS- TRANSLOCATION OR CULLING IN SOUTH AFRICA ?

Elephants are being given a second chance in South Africa. To minimise the need to cull elephants, the National Parks Board has received a grant of US\$2.5 million to enable more land to be purchased to extend the boundaries of existing national parks, to allow for the translocation of these beautiful animals.

Through its culling programme over the last 3 decades, the National Parks Board has managed to contain the elephant population in Kruger National Park to between 7000-8000 animals. The Board decided not to cull during 1995 and review instead its elephant management policy. It launched the "Elephant Relocation Project", firstly to raise funds to translocate elephants from Kruger and secondly, to buy land to extend existing national parks.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Humane Society of the United States, both donated funds. The IFAW stipulated that no elephants be killed on land bought with that money. However, the National Parks Board is still able to cull elephants on all other land under its management. Elephant contraception research will also benefit from a US\$2.5 million donation from the HSUS.

SOUTH AFRICA TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO ON ELEPHANT TRADE

At a meeting of wildlife ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Lilongwe, Malawi, in early November, it was agreed that South Africa will maintain the status quo of no international trade in ivory and elephant products of South African origin. Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe will, however, apply for their elephant populations to be downlisted to allow trade.

In addition, the SADC ministers agreed to support proposals for the transfer of the elephant populations of Namibia,

Botswana and Zimbabwe from CITES Appendix 1 (no trade permitted) to Appendix 11 (select trade under controlled conditions). Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Pallo Jordan said, "this consensus was reached in recognition of the rights of SADC member states to derive socio-economic benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of their natural resources through controlled international trade in wildlife specimens and products."

The drastic decline in African elephant populations due to poaching led to their listing on Appendix 1 of CITES in 1989. Despite the total ban on trade in all elephant products, elephant populations in many African countries have continued to decline.

In contrast, elephant herds in Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa have grown to the point where there is now an over-population in national parks and private reserves. The total ban on trade resulted in a huge drop in revenue for these countries, which were managing their elephant populations on a sustainable basis and trading in ivory and elephant products.

The National Parks Board said it was delighted South Africa was not included in the downlisting. "We have argued for a long time not to downlist, and have repeatedly stated that the issue is not trade but control of trade," said Dr Anthony Hall-Martin. The International Fund for Animal Welfare and Earthlife Africa have both expressed their opposition to the partial lifting of the ban.

MOUNTAIN GORILLAS - INTERESTING FACTS

There are 3 sub-species of the 1 species of gorilla, and current population estimates of these groups are 10,000-30,000 western lowland gorillas, 4,000 eastern lowland gorillas and less than 620 mountain gorillas. Legally, there are no mountain gorillas in captivity, only western lowland gorillas.

Gorillas generally live in groups of about 10-12 animals, led by a dominant male or silverback and then assorted females and their offspring. Females reproduce every 4 or so years, having usually had their first young at about 10 years of age, and only produce about 4

babies during their breeding life, due to a high mortality rate.

Due to their huge size and weight - up to 180 kg - gorillas are not great travellers. Exercise is not at the top of their list of activities! Their habitat comprises an area of approximately 30 sq km and often they move only 1 km per day in search of food, of which they eat an enormous amount. The members of the group follow the silverback's example in all aspects of daily life. He protects his group fiercely and is usually the first one killed as the others retreat into the forest when danger lurks. Upon the death of the leader, the group disintegrates until another male takes over. He will kill all young fathered by his predecessor, and then mate with as many females as possible to ensure the survival of his genes.

MOUNTAIN GORILLAS FACING A CRISIS

Since the end of the war involving Rwanda, Zaire and Uganda, the tiny Virunga Park which is home to the mountain gorillas, and which shares borders with all three countries, has been severely threatened by several man-made events. This small, but very important park, is made up of Afo Montane rainforest along the slopes of the Virunga volcanoes and contains the only two remaining strongholds of mountain gorillas.

After 10 poaching free years, the war and instability provided poachers with an opportunity to return to their illegal activities. In 1995, almost 2% of the remaining mountain gorillas were killed by poachers.

Deforestation caused by refugee camps being set up, resettlement by previously exiled people returning with their cattle, and political upheavals, have all contributed to the crisis.

Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa, and since many areas have already been resettled, often with devastating environmental consequences, the authorities are now turning to the Virunga volcanoes - the gorilla habitat - to allocate land for more settlement. With little or no local planning, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF) is working with aid agencies and government ministries in both Zaire

and Rwanda to help ease the crisis of refugees and resettlement, while at the same time, having to consider political issues.

The military location of the Karisoke Research Centre also causes a problem for the DFGF's staff in Rwanda. Permission is needed to rebuild this centre. Meanwhile, Dr Liz Williamson, Karisoke's Director, and her staff, manage to steadfastly protect the remaining gorillas with their patrol operations. However, new headquarters are being planned on the Zairean side of the Virunga. Mountains and funds from international donors are being sought to establish the Virunga Conservation Centre. World attention is now on conservation in Zaire since the war and subsequent refugee crisis, and conservation officials are keen to involve as many politicians as possible. The project manager is a top Zairean, conservationist, Dr Trinto Mugangu, whose experience in dealing with top-level politicians will be invaluable.

More support for the endangered mountain gorillas comes from the International Gorilla Conservation Programme which was organised to protect the gorillas 24 hours a day. It employs 6 anti-poaching patrols, each with 6 men. Their work is often very dangerous, as landmines abound and Hutu rebels train in the forests with automatic weapons. Salary and food for 1 man per day costs A\$15 - a small cost when considering the survival of these magnificent endangered animals.

GORILLA NUMBERS UPDATE

Latest news - there are now 72 gorillas in the three Karisoke groups, an increase of 9 from the previous year. The groups are called Pablo's, Suzu's "Tourist" group and Shinda's. Pablo's group now has 30 members after one male managed to win over 5 females from the Suzu group!!

Seven mountain gorillas have been born

in recent months to two groups in Rwanda's Volcano National Park, WWF has announced.

SAVE FOUNDATION OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO GORILLAS

Rosemary Godfrey from the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund in London has written to thank us for our kind donation of 51 backpacks, 31 pairs of boots and socks, 20 pairs of water proof trousers and 10 sleeping bags, which are being used for patrols in Rwanda and Zaire.

Your Executive recently voted to supply more aid to the gorillas and have ordered the following kit for a further patrol unit of 50 men: trousers, shirts, pullovers, boots, socks, waterproofs and backpacks. This will be distributed via DFGF.

R.I.P. MAURICE CORETH

We are very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Count Maurice Coreth, a close rhino colleague, who recently passed away, aged 67.

Maurice founded the Rhino Rescue Trust in the UK in 1986, based in Suffolk, and the organisation was originally set up to save the black rhinos in Kenya. It was responsible for the first purpose built rhino sanctuary in Africa, established at Nakuru, north west of Nairobi. Early fundraising success was helped by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands who became the President, and high profile patrons, including, Sir Peter Scott, James Stewart and Sir Laurens van der Post.

Maurice first went to Kenya in 1954 and bought a farm in the Subukia Valley and became a settler. He saw Kenya as a country that offered everything to an adventurous young man. After Independence in 1963, Maurice's farm was compulsorily acquired by the new Kenya Government and Maurice returned to England.

However, his desire to help rhino conservation was heightened on meeting Peter Jenkins in December 1985 and hearing of the wholesale slaughter of the black rhino in Tsavo Park. Having secured the rhino's safety in Nakuru, Maurice then turned his sights to Zimbabwe, where for the past 5 years he has worked in conjunction with the SAVE FOUNDATION.

Particularly significant was the work with the mobile maintenance unit, whereby the chief mechanic was employed by the RRT. More recently, the RRT established a programme of advanced training within the IPZs and conservancies, making use of Col. Lionel Dyck as the local co-ordinator. Due to its success, and the possible misunderstanding of the need for better trained men in the field, the programme was stopped by the government some 12 months ago and Rhino Rescue took a back seat in Zimbabwean rhino affairs.

The SAVE FOUNDATION was very proud to have been associated with Maurice Coreth and the RRT and will miss his generosity, wit and wisdom.

To his wife, Jenny, and their 3 sons and a daughter, we send our sincere condolences for their sad loss and at the same time, we thank them for the contribution that Maurice made in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

SPONSORS

The SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia has been fortunate in the support of so many sponsors during 1996/1997. Some of these companies have been helping us for the past ten years, others have lent their support for the first time during the past year; some provide help in a big way, others in a small way, but whatever their contribution, it is much appreciated and the Executive of the SAVE FOUNDATION has a big "thank you" for each one.

We hope, of course, that SAVE FOUNDATION members and readers of the NEWSLETTER will take time to read the sponsors' list and to reciprocate by supporting them whenever possible.

AFFRETAIR, HARARE - TUCKER SEABROOK- BRITISH AIRWAYS, HARARE - ZIMBABWE SUN HOTELS - ZIMBABWE EXPRESS AIRLINES - QANTAS AIRWAYS & QANTAS FREIGHT, PERTH AND HARARE - NIAGARA THERAPY EQUIPMENT (WA) -

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Goodyear Tyres		Yum Yum Chocolates

NEWS FROM OUR BRANCHES

VICTORIA

On Friday 21 February, SAVE FOUNDATION Victoria held a fundraising trivia night at the Fitzroy Bowling Club, hosted by "Personality Pete" - Peter Cox from Radio 3AW, and Rotten Rex. Over 160 people attended, and a great night was had by all. Proceeds from the evening - over \$3,500 - will be used to purchase 50 spare batteries for two way radios used by NPWM staff in rhino protection. Our thanks to Peter and Rex, the Fitzroy Bowling Club, and the following generous sponsors: Chris and Margie McClelland, Ivory Coast, Hard Rock Cafe, Body Shop, Hotel Como, Books in Print, Alison Maritz, Di Perdan, Helen Leitch, and African Heritage, Beechworth.

Note that SAVE FOUNDATION Victoria Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 June, 7pm. Please call Sue for venue. All members most welcome! All honorary positions will be open to nominations to the Secretary at GPO Box 4917W, Melbourne 3001.

Sue Pennicuik

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Adelaide branch welcomes Ian Brown as a new member, and Ian has very generously made a donation of \$1,000. Thanks very much and it will go a long way to giving extra support to the men in the field. A cheque for \$2,000 to the head office in Perth and will also be used for purchasing field equipment.

We recently provided funds to Dr Peter Mundy at National Parks in Bulawayo to pay for the printing costs for some new brochures for publicity purposes.

An assortment of items for resale has been purchased, including caps, stubby holders, wallets, waist bags etc, and we invite our members to support this

fundraising move. We also hope to have a golf day at a later date.

We will be having a stall at the *Talk to the Animals* Show from 12-14 April.

John King.

QUEENSLAND

December 1996 saw the Brisbane branch (in conjunction with NSW and head office) join British Airways, the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation and Elefriends Australia, in purchasing a new landrover for Dr Greg Rasmussen. He is researching the endangered Painted Hunting Dog of Southern Africa. You may remember last year, we brought you the story of Greg and his research with the dog. This research was being seriously hindered by the lack of a 4WD vehicle, so this now has been remedied. Prior to this, all research was being done from a very old motor cycle and a very 'mature' 2WD.

Latest reports show that 5 packs of dogs have now been radio collared - the largest pack consist of 6 adults and 14 pups. These collars have already proved worthwhile as a number of dogs have been caught in snares and have been rescued by Greg and his team. It is interesting to note that during the times when two dogs could not keep up with the pack, the remainder of the pack exhibited the caring behaviour they are known for. They not only waited for the two slower dogs to catch them up whilst walking along the roads, but as they could not join the hunt for food, the other dogs regurgitated meat for them. Hence their quick recovery!!!

1997 Black Rhino Dinner Auction

This gala event will take place on Saturday 8 November, 1997, and will feature a main prize of a safari for 2 to Zimbabwe to the value of \$10,000, for the lucky ticket holder. There will be 24 other prizes available from a limited number of 200 tickets.

Your investment in this very interesting concept is \$150 per single, comprising

\$65 for the dinner/drinks/entertainment and \$85 for the in-built raffle ticket. Full details are available from Andrew on 3369 1066.

Andrew O'Hara.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The head office in Perth welcomes all New South Wales members to its membership list, and administration will now be conducted in Perth. We invite you all to joint the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia, whose annual renewal date is 1 April. Hence, the appropriate form is included with this newsletter.

Our major sponsor, Tucker Seabrook, last year most generously donated a cheque for \$4,400, being part proceeds from their annual sales of Nederburg, Klein Constantia and Sable View Wines. We are indeed indebted to Judy and Rob Hirst, Directors of Tucker Seabrook, who are now supporting us for the 5th consecutive year. Tucker Seabrook request that half the proceeds stay within New South Wales, preferably the Dubbo Zoo, whilst the other half be spent in Zimbabwe. Accordingly, \$2,200 is being used to buy a new rhino chute for the rhino enclosures at Western Plains. As readers may know, an IVF programme is being worked in conjunction with Monash University.

It is planned to hold another sundowner at the Victoria Barracks, in addition to a more formal rhino ball later in the year. Details will be mailed separately to New South Wales members nearer the time.

The committee for 1997 comprises Penny Couchman, Lindsay Adams, Andrew Muller, Jen Dollin, Renate Lincoln, Tracey Horn, Victoria Caelli, Deidre Williamson and Richard Moras.

Let's all keep in touch.

Penny Couchman and Lindsay Adams.

GREAT EVENING WITH BRYCE COURTENAY - 23 JULY - 356 GUESTS - \$38,000 RAISED

On Tuesday 23 July, 356 guests attended our very special "Evening with Bryce Courtenay", one of our patrons, at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. This proved to be a spectacular event with the staff of the hotel excelling in the decor of the ballroom, an excellent meal and drinks and an exhilarating presentation by Bryce. It was both witty and stimulating and the entire audience were in raptures with Bryce's turn of phrase and cheerful presentation. No wonder he is in such demand and makes approximately 140 guest appearances each year! Bryce particularly emphasised the need to follow your dreams, persevere with them and have a positive attitude for their success. There is no point in getting in a rut and staying in it! Thank you so much, Bryce, for donating your services for this incredible evening and we really do appreciate you being the cornerstone for our fund raising at this gala event.

During the course of the evening Ros Maxwell, State Manager in WA for Tucker Seabrook, made a special presentation to Bryce Courtenay of a cheque for \$4,400, past proceeds from Tucker Seabrook's sale in Australia of their South African wines, in particular Nederburg, Klein Constantia and Sable View. This is an ongoing relationship that Tucker Seabrook has with the SAVE FOUNDATION and we are very grateful to Rob and Judy Hirst for continuing their support. Part of the funds will be spent on the Western Plains rhino project and the balance will be used to buy more field kits for Zimbabwean patrols. We strongly recommend these wines and invite our members and readers to sample them from their local bottle store.

Special thanks must go to our major sponsors: Qantas Airways for Bryce's flights; Tucker Seabrook for the tasty South African wines and Tomahawk beer; Swan Brewery; Hartley's Safaris; Lesedi cultural village; Wild Geese Lodge; Imire Game Ranch; Chifungulu Safari Camp; Tongabezi Camp; The Hide; Adventure World and Afro Ventures; Musango Safari Lodge; Victoria Falls Hotel; Meikles Hotel; Leopard Rock Hotel; Twin Springs

Rhino Ranch; Santina Stransky; Pam Barbour; Bill Adams; Helen Playford; Patrick Mavros; Justin Tew; Chris McClelland; Eve Arnold; James Lavin; Brinkhaus Jewellers; Fred Shilton; Silver Creations; Phone Forward; The Body Shop; Rhino Auto Alarms; Tech-One; Accent Gallery, Yum Yum Chocolates and Puma Australia.

As with most functions of this type the main money came from the after-dinner auction. We were blessed with two safaris, a number of lovely stone carvings, some delightful pictures, some wines and beers, autographed cricket bats and a variety of other interesting items. The total profit for the evening was \$38,000 thanks mainly to generous bids by Hogan and Partners and Judge Constable for the two safaris, and many other generous cash purchasers.

Eve Broadley, Director of Hogan and Partners, wrote the following appreciation of her safari; "My sister Judy and I had a wonderful trip, with each day bringing new and exciting experiences. In Harare, we stayed at the Meikles Hotel and thanks go to them for providing one of their best suites. Our two days at Twin Springs will always be remembered, Janet & Sam Chambliss were wonderful hosts and they made us feel part of their 'family'. The 'family' consisted of their son, 2 dogs, 3 elephants and Rozalinde, the hand reared black rhino. We will always remember the beautiful sunrises and the early evening time when the elephants and Rozalinde would entertain us with their playful loving antics. Our thanks to Rozalinde for providing a fantastic video of her lovemaking (for mature audiences only).

Sad to leave Twin Springs, we moved to the magnificent Leopard Rock Hotel in the Eastern Highlands, and loved our stay there - no animals but beautiful location and atmosphere.

Next stop was Musango Safari Camp on the shores of Lake Kariba. The head did not deter the enthusiasm of our hosts and their staff and every day was exciting. I am full of admiration for

their dedication to preserving and maintaining Africa's greatest asset - their animals.

A couple of days at Victoria Falls, despite not much water, was a fabulous experience. The Victoria Falls Hotel was just so lovely. The shopping was exhausting, but fun.

Our final 5 days in Botswana in the Okavango Delta were perhaps the highlight. We stayed at Camp Moremi on the Moremi Wildlife Reserve where we teamed up with two other couples. We had superb safari trips with sightings of an abundance of animals, including lions, leopards, giraffes, zebras, baboons, buffalos, crocodiles and hippos. The next camp, Camp Okavango, was a water camp and our days were spent navigating the water channels viewing the beautiful birds.

Our thanks go to Nicholas Duncan for coordinating such a fantastic trip and to all the donors for providing first class accommodation and entertainment, especially Janet and Sam of Twin Springs, Steve and Judy Edwards of Musango."

PHOTOS

SAFARI '97 - ONLY 6 PLACES LEFT

Our annual safari, fully escorted by our Vice President, Marion Bowers, with **guaranteed rhino sightings**, leaves from Sydney and Perth on 28 August and comprises 2 options, as follows:

Option A

This is an 11 day / 9 night "**Best of Zimbabwe**" safari. The first night is at the fabulour **Meikles Hotel**, followed by 24 hrs at **Imire Game Ranch**, famous for its 8 black rhinos and elephant rides. Then it's **Musango Safari Camp** on the shores of **Lake Kariba** where you'll see elephants, hippos, buffalo, crocodile and maybe Chewore_(see picture on page 2). Perhaps the most exciting part of the trip will be 3 days of rhino tracking with National Parks scouts in **Sinamatella IPZ**, based in a remote bush camp (roaring lions by night - quite safe!). Your last 2 nights are at the famous **Victoria Falls Hotel**, home to one of the seven wonders of world.

Just about everything is included (food, game viewing, accommodation, flights, transfers and most drinks) and the net price is only **\$4,495**, representing tremendous value.

Option B

This is all of Option A plus 4 days and nights in the brand new **Nxabega Camp** situated in the **Okavango Delta, Botswana**, home to some of the best game viewing for the whole trip, as well as the wonderfully peaceful waterways. This trip is a net **\$6,795**.

If you are interested, please phone the Perth office **immediately** for a brochure on this wonderful trip. Only 6 places are left, departing Thursday 28 August.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc) will be held on Tuesday 10 June, at 7.30pm in the Lower Pavilion of the Royal King's Park Tennis Club. The agenda will be as follows:.

Business:

1. Acceptance of the minutes from the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13 June, 1996.
2. President's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Election of Executive Committee.
5. Any other business.

Nominations forms for positions on the Executive, together with proxy forms, are available from the SAVE FOUNDATION in Perth and nominations should be lodged at that office by 7.30pm on Thursday 5 June.

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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 No.

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Signature:

FIRST NAME: SURNAME:

ADDRESS:P/CODE:

PHONE: (H):(W):OCCUPATION:

THE PAINTED DOG IN HWANGE

At our last meeting, we were very lucky to have Julia Salnicki attend to talk about her experiences on the Painted Dog project in Hwange National Park. The new Landrover is being fitted with long range fuel tanks and will be delivered in June.

The Research Centre has two focuses - education and conservation, and consists of a house with very little furniture that doubles as the research centre.

The Painted Hunting Dog

- Is no longer called The Cape Hunting Dog.
- There are about 3000 left in the whole of Africa.
- Each pack has an alpha male and an alpha female and they are the only two in the pack that breed. The other dogs babysit and hunt.
- The main diet in Impala.
- The dogs don't drink very much because they get all the moisture they need from the blood of their kill.
- Dogs eat their kill and then regurgitate to the pups.
- Any one pack has a range of 750 sq. kms so at least 2 dogs per pack are collared with radio signals so that researchers can ascertain why their numbers are in danger.
- \$500 for radio collar and \$80 for the anti-snare collar.
- Each pack has a different collar colour.
- The collars don't seem to worry the dogs and they stay on.
- New anti-snare collars have been devised to save dogs from certain death. They are fitted with rivets and either the rivets break or the snare becomes dislodged.
- Batteries last for 18-24 months.
- Average pack size is 10 dogs.
- The dogs have a different pattern on the left and right side of their body so videos are invaluable for identifying a dog.

Reasons for their deaths

- Killed on the roads
- Caught in snares
- Farmers shooting them

Some extra help

- Tour operators are reporting sightings
- Some farmers are turning the presence of the dogs to their benefit. One farmer is doing wildlife tours, (including Painted Dog sightings) instead of running cattle and is reaping the rewards.
- New road signs saying "Wild Dog Crossing" - the % age of deaths on roads is down.

Education

There has never been a reported attack by a Painted Dog on a human. The research centre visits schools and takes along posters and workbooks which include information, questions and crosswords.

Our past involvement with The Painted Dog has been with both Greg Rasmussen at the main Hwange Camp and Kim McCreery and Bob Robbins in Sinamatella. Greg has received a vehicle, fridge and nitrogen container while the Sinamatella project has benefited from 4 radio collars and a dart gun.

There is a desperate need for a new Land Rover, costing £15,000 (AUD \$31,250) and it is being provided by the following donors: British Airways £500, David Shepherd Conservation Foundation £3,400, Elefriends Australia £2,400.

SAVE FOUNDATION - Qld, £1,500
SAVE FOUNDATION - NSW £1,500
SAVE FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA £1,500

This vehicle will be equipped with everything that Greg requires, including a long range fuel tank. One of our NSW members, Julia Salnicki, has been working on this project in Hwange and keeps us informed of the latest progress.

PHOTO

