



Patrons: The Lord McAlpine of West Green, David Gower OBE, Bryce Courtenay AM, Nick Price

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The situation in Zimbabwe is being adequately covered in the media, so no extra details are needed here. It is common knowledge that the economic and humane conditions are rapidly deteriorating and we hope and pray that an appropriate solution will soon be found for their troubled times. A mark of this decline is the fall in the Zimbabwe dollar on the parallel market, from about Z\$8,000 to US\$1 in January 2005 to the current level of more than Z\$200,000 for one greenback.

Fortunately, the rhino populations around the country have not been too affected by the economic situation and their numbers are still satisfactory. There has been, however, some poaching in the Midlands conservancy, Save Valley conservancy and Gourlays Ranch. Let's hope it's not active within the National Parks themselves.

Our goal these days is to raise at least A\$150,000 per year to be used on 11 rhino projects in Zimbabwe, one in Namibia, plus lesser amounts for the Painted Dog Project, the Hwange Lion Research programme and a few other smaller conservation programmes. Our two biggest income producers in the past year have been the fabulous dinner/auction with our patron Bryce Courtenay, last November at the Hyatt Regency Perth, preceded by our magnificent safari for 22 people in September. The dinner auction raised \$77,000 and the safari produced an income of \$30,000, so we are well on our way to our target.



Guests admiring the range of carvings, memorabilia and paintings.

This has been supplemented by some minor fund raisers, membership fees, and very generous donations, namely from **Hunter Hall Investment Management Ltd** and **Mrs Mac's Pty Ltd**.

Details of our wise expenditure of our funds are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have also been involved in helping with the critical water shortage in Hwange National Park, temporarily alleviated by very heavy rains from December to March, and now it is time to improve the infrastructure.

We really do thank all our members and supporters for their financial support and other input over the past year and we trust that you will all renew your memberships in the near future. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to also offer their support so we can do even more in the next year for Zimbabwe's beleaguered wildlife. Your executive committee is totally committed to this end result and are by far and away the most powerful Board that we have ever enjoyed in our 19 years. We invite you all to meet them and each other at our next AGM in July.

Nicholas S. Duncan

ZIMBABWE UPDATE

Without going into too much detail, the black rhino numbers continue to maintain a reasonable level, though there has been noticeable poaching in the Midlands conservancy over the past 18 months, with the loss of 16 rhinos. However, we are very confident of their future rhino population control, mainly due to the appointment of a new rhino monitor, Keith Pilz, plus the expertise of the local Senior Warden, Norman English, who has now been moved from Sinamatella to Sebakwe. We have provided in excess of 20 radios for these two men and their teams, plus field kit and tents. In addition, the Quik microlight is now making regular aerial surveys of the region.



L-R: Ken King (Midlands Conservancy), Nicholas Duncan and Norman English, discussing rhino business.

Another area of concern was Gourlays Ranch, which had been invaded in 2001 by the new settlers, with the resulting breakdown in law and order on the property. The decision was finally made to remove the rhinos to a safer area, and last September and October a total of 30 were relocated to Buby River. There may still be a few remaining that require relocation. Due to intermittent monitoring and the threat of poaching, numbers could have been anywhere between 20 and 45. So the population of 30 from this area will now be added to others from different areas to form a new nucleus in the proposed Gonarezhou Intensive Protection Zone.

This year's rhino management programme calls for further dehorning, horn implanting and re-distribution of the gene pools. We will be helping to fund the necessary work in the Midlands, Sinamatella, Matusadona and Matopos.

We really do need to highlight the extraordinary dedication and hard work offered by all those involved in these management programmes. In particular, we commend the veterinarian expertise of Chris Foggin, the overall co-ordination of Raoul du Toit from WWF/Southern African Rhino Programme, the back-up from Lovemore Mungwasha, Keith Pilz and all the expert trackers from the conservancies and National Parks, particularly Jackson and Israel.

Without these committed people the situation would be far worse in Zimbabwe than it currently is. We do seek our readers' support for this most important work. It costs \$1,250 per rhino for tracking, immobilisation, implanting and transportation, so all contributions are really most welcome and appreciated – thanks.

Another initiative in which we are involved with our good colleagues at the Marwell Zimbabwe Trust and Cirad, is the training and employment of an additional dozen rhino monitors in the Sinamatella area. These patrols are needed to assist the local research officer, Hilary, and we are co-partners with the other two organisations with this important work. The pilot programme from three years ago proved to be most successful and these men have now been promoted to full time positions within National Parks.

All in all, we are proud to be one of the few overseas donors that have continued to support Zimbabwe conservation in the way that we have, whilst others have unfortunately turned their attention elsewhere. In January, I was joined by Geoff Hoddy, Mike Palmer, Miriam Bauman and John Dumancic, for a 10 day visit to some of our projects. As usual, Imire proved to be a fascinating first day in Africa and we were happy to meet their thirteenth rhino calf.

We were also happy to lend financial assistance to the rhino minders and it is great to be able to provide other necessary support to the Imire infrastructure. Next, we had two marvellous days in the Midlands and were hosted by Lockie Baird, Keith Pilz and Norman English, resulting in some exciting tracking to within 15 metres of a large male rhino, with a female and calf not much further away! This was definitely one of the highlights of the trip.



Keith hard at work before a rhino track, using a laptop kindly donated by a member, Helen Pitman.

The next six days were spent in the company of Verity Bowman from Marwell, who was once again a tremendous help to us, by providing her Land Rover for visits to Main Camp and Sinamatella. This enabled us to meet up with Andy Loveridge and his lion team and we were privileged to be part of a darting exercise and to observe everything at very close quarters! For this and much more many thanks go to Andy and Jane. Driving from Main Camp to Sinamatella, we were blessed to encounter a pack of 6 painted dogs who came within a few metres of our vehicle - what a thrill!



The close encounter –taking all the measurements.

John and Miriam had purchased this special “behind the scenes” trip at the Bryce Courtenay auction, and we intend to make similar events

available at least twice a year to our members. They really turn out to offer you some very special moments and are well worth your consideration. The next adventure is January 2007.

The Quik microlight that was imported to Zimbabwe about a year ago has now served a very good six week apprenticeship in the Save conservancy, followed by an extended period on the ground whilst its future ownership was being decided. This has now been organised, and it will continue to do vital work in Save, plus being made available to the Midlands and other projects within the area.

Thanks to Senga for your continued faith in the venture and for helping to bring it to the current satisfactory finale. We are now working in conjunction with the Hwange Lion Research Project to provide a slightly bigger microlight that can be used by the various projects in the Hwange area, and hopefully a purchase will be made in the near future. We particularly thank **Mike Palmer** for his most generous financial contribution to this programme.

SAFARI 2005

A great group of 22 people assembled at different points of departure, Florida, Singapore, Auckland and Perth, for their adventure to Zimbabwe and Botswana, with an optional extension into Namibia. We had a fantastic time! We also saw masses of brilliant wildlife, including 12 different prides of lions (up to 22 in one), a pack of 19 painted dogs, 22 black rhinos (mainly in Etosha), a herd of 500 buffalo, four separate close encounters with a young male leopard and so much more. If we had made such suggestions in our promotional material we would have been accused of breaching the Fair Trading Act through false advertising. But it actually did happen!



September 2005 Safari in front of the Kingdom, Victoria Falls



What a handsome boy!

We visited Imire, the magnificent Hide Safari Camp in Hwange, Sinamatella Camp, Victoria Falls and all its activities and then ended in the Okavango Delta. Those who continued to Namibia took a four hour charter flight and then had five wonderful days in Etosha and Damaraland. For the latter, we extend our most grateful appreciation to Rudi Loutit and Bernd Brell for their superb hospitality at our desert camp, and for their expertise at finding a rhino and her calf in this most bleak, but stunning landscape.



We saw nine black rhinos this night in Etosha.

All in all, with profits from the trip and ad hoc auctions along the way, we raised in excess of \$30,000, which is being used to support various projects that we visited, as requested by the individual group members.

We are taking two more groups on similar adventures this year. This September's trip for our members and the general public still has two places available if you contact me as soon as possible. A group of property investors from Aspire Wealth Creation will go in October.



A rare and exhilarating sighting.

KIMBA MELU

Kimba Melu is a beautiful young female elephant whose mother died in the drought in November and who was destined to be sent to an Indian zoo as part of an inter-government exchange.



Geoff and Nicholas with their new baby.

However, her condition was rapidly deteriorating when Geoff Hoddy and Nicholas Duncan heard about her in late January, and they immediately negotiated to buy her from National Parks and offer her an alternative future. As a result, Kimba Melu (named after Kim Hoddy) now lives in the beautiful Mavuradonha Wilderness area, 150 kms north of Harare, under the care of Janine and James Varden. She was severely stressed when she was adopted and has stomach problems causing quite frequent colic, but we are optimistic for her future survival although the next three years will be critical times.

Kimba Melu is certainly receiving plenty of love and attention and sleeps with her keeper. She will be used as a role model for conservation education amongst the surrounding eight community schools, and we all hope that her presence will lead to a better understanding amongst the communal people

as to how man can live in harmony with wildlife, a philosophy quite alien to many of them.

As she grows, her upkeep will be an expensive pastime for Janine and James. We do invite any of our readers to contribute, please, to the purchase of milk powder for her growing needs. And if you come on one of our “behind the scenes” trips, you too will get to cuddle her!

TIKKI HYWOOD TRUST

Also in January, we were privileged to meet Lisa Barnard, daughter of the late Tikki Hywood, after whom she named and founded her conservation trust. It specialises in smaller endangered species, particularly the serval, caracal, African wild cat, hedgehog, genet and pangolin, all of which are categorised as being under great threat to their future survival.

We were most impressed with Lisa’s tenacity in helping us purchase Kimba Melu, and we were equally impressed with her dedication to the various animals that she was helping to breed and subsequently to release into the wild. We have helped to fund some tracking collars, electric fences, field kit and other necessities for the release of six wild cats into Mavuradonha.



Janine, Lisa, Geoff (right) and the Mavuradonha anti poaching unit with their new supplies.

Just recently, Lisa was our very special guest at the Perth Zoo Education Centre and enthralled a gathering of 55 zoo staff, Painted Dog Project members and SAVE FOUNDATION members, plus their friends, with her stories and illustrations of the dedicated committed work that she does. Her passion and connection with the audience led to many interesting questions relating to her work. Our subsequent auction raised a marvellous total of \$5,000 to further support Lisa and her Trust’s critical work in Zimbabwe, all under the veterinary guidance of Chris Foggin. Thanks Lisa for visiting us and we truly wish you well in the future.

HWANGE WATER CRISIS

It became apparent towards the end of last year's dry season that there was an imminent water crisis developing throughout Hwange National Park. Many of the boreholes were struggling to keep pace with the large elephant demand. There was a shortage of fuel to operate them and they were in dire need of better maintenance. By September, animals were beginning to starve in the drought conditions and Johnny Rodrigues, together with the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force, initiated an appeal for financial resources to alleviate the situation. We responded by immediately donating US\$5,000 for the purchase of 5,000 litres of diesel, this coinciding with our arrival in Harare.



Johnny Rodrigues and his team delivering diesel for the Hwange water pumps.

Within three days the drums of diesel had been taken by Johnny from Harare to Hwange and their distribution occurred over the next week. Twelve water bores were replenished and basic repair work was carried out where needed. Other donors also contributed and these waterholes were functional until the rains came in November. Fortunately, Hwange experienced enormous rains from November to March and there was an amazing turn around in the landscape, with long, lush grass and vegetation and plentiful surface water, only navigable by 4 wheel drive.



Pump attendants in need of spares and diesel.

We were always impressed by Johnny's great efforts, and we continue to support his appeals, along with Getaway Magazine from South Africa, Hwange Conservation Society (UK) and Friends of Hwange Trust. Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ) is now the official co-ordinator of the official water rehabilitation programme and the donors are still supporting where they can. Johnny is providing much of the manpower and the logistical needs, having made two trips to South Africa to collect vital spares, and then distributing them into Hwange. Now that the rains have stopped, the waterholes are subsiding and the pumps are once again going to be needed pretty soon. Mario and Owen have been tasked with their repair and we look forward to two months of great work being done around the Park so that the dams can once again be filled to capacity when the need arises in late May.



Johnny overseeing repairs to a pump.

We will continue to monitor and support this most worthy project, and we congratulate National Parks on their wisdom in agreeing to allow external support for this programme.



Impala stuck in the mud.



Stage one of the rescue.



Nearly safe!



Back on dry land.

These photos are courtesy of the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force.

AN EVENING WITH BRYCE COURTENAY - \$77,000 RAISED

Bryce Courtenay and SAVE FOUNDATION joined forces last November to raise nearly \$80,000 in an auction which combined the wildness of Africa with sporting memorabilia from all over the world. In excess of 350 people turned up to enjoy a superb three course dinner served by the **Hyatt Regency Perth**.

Fine Wine Partners donated their marvellous **Nederburg** range of wines and **Heineken** and **Hahn Premium Light** was supplied courtesy of **Lion Nathan Limited/Swan Brewery**. Many thanks to our generous donors.



A memorable evening for our 357 guests.

Kelly Newton-Wordsworth opened proceedings with her lovely environmental song, “One World, One Planet”. Thanks, Kelly, for setting the scene. Then SAVE FOUNDATION President Nicholas Duncan welcomed the guests and briefed them on their range of work in Zimbabwe since 1987. He also had the pleasure of introducing the guest speaker for the evening, none other than famous author Bryce Courtenay, one of our patrons.

Bryce Courtenay gave an animated, entertaining insight into much of his life which enthralled all those present. His description of how he ended up in Australia was something we could all relate to. When he was forced to leave South Africa he travelled to all parts of the globe hoping to find a place where he could settle. In the UK everyone spoke English but due to many overcast days “where the sky was so low” he knew he couldn’t live there. When he got to South America where there was a “big sky,” things were looking up, but he didn’t speak the language. So when he sailed through Sydney Heads to be welcomed by a big sky and to find people who spoke English and were willing to give him a fair go, he knew he had found his new home. Through much hardship and adversity he never lost sight of his dream to become a writer. His enthusiasm and enjoyment for life was best summed up when he said “if you are going to skate on thin ice then you may as well tap dance.”

It soon became apparent that this amazing attitude was extremely influential and has reaped great rewards throughout his life.



Bryce in action as an inspirational after-dinner speaker.

Bryce is certainly living proof of the power of one and invites his listeners to explore the power of the individual. Thanks, Bryce, for your great contribution to our foundation, and for being such a terrific catalyst for our fund raiser. Bryce was presented with a suitably inscribed wooden rhino.

A furious pace was set by auctioneer, **Chris Shellabear**, as he auctioned more than 50 items during the evening. In the intervals there was also a wide range of African treasures up for grabs in a silent auction. Some great deals (or steals depending on how you looked at it!) were snapped up by guests including Monika Dunnet, Joy Blyth, Miriam Bauman, Evelyn Wong, Geoff Hoddy, Craig Turnbull, Rod Pollitt, Martin Storey, John O’Connor, Steve Ferris, Eddie Pontague, Bill Kerns, Ernest Bevilaqua, Shaun Howie, Peter Wallace and Malcolm Washer.

An array of signed memorabilia from World Number Ones was sold, including Muhammed Ali, Tiger Woods, Don Bradman, Shane Warne/Glenn McGrath and the Australian Cricket Team – what a collection!



Thanks, Chris, for your outstanding efforts to help raise all this money.

One of the more interesting items to be auctioned was donated by Bryce Courtenay. The successful bidder would have their name used as a character in his next novel. Stay tuned to read about the escapades of our Vice President Kevin Judge!

My partner Miriam got into a bidding war for a behind the scenes trip to Zimbabwe with members of SAVE FOUNDATION. Fortunately for me, Nicholas stopped the bidding at \$3,700, (Miriam had already bought the wild dog painting and a pair of giraffes). Both parties were offered the same trip at this price, one to be taken in January and the other in May. Having done this trip in January we can honestly say it is the best trip we have ever taken.

For 3 days in Harare we stayed with Liz Searle, the artist who painted the wild dog picture, and her husband Lionel - parents of Andy Searle who was killed in a helicopter crash in Hwange National Park five years ago. Liz donated this painting to SAVE FOUNDATION and asked that the proceeds go to the Imire breeding project. Some of the things we saw and did were priceless. Imagine getting to within 15 metres of a wild black rhino in the bush. As it approached, the adrenalin was like nothing else we have ever experienced. Awesome!! If you haven't been you must plan to go.

John Dumancic



Liz Searle's beautiful painting of a pack of wild dogs.

COMMITTED FUNDING FOR 2006/07

Midlands Conservancy	A\$22,000
Microlight for Hwange research	20,000
Matusadona rhino monitoring	20,000
Imire Game Park	16,900
Sinamatella rhino monitoring	15,000
Southern African Rhino Programme	14,000
Tikki Hywood Trust	5,000
Painted Dog Project	2,700
Total	\$115,600

MAJOR DONORS

The following organisations and individuals have made generous donations during the past financial year. Our major supporter for a number of years has been **Peter Hall and Hunter Hall Management Investment Limited** who have made the most magnificent contribution to world rhino conservation, particularly the Asian species, to the grand total of **\$605,000** in 2005/06.

We also welcome as a corporate sponsor our long standing member, **Iain MacGregor and Mrs Mac's Pty Ltd.**

The very generous donations from the following individuals are also acknowledged; **David & Adele Begovich, Joy Blyth, Allan Brown, Kate & John Bryan, Charmaine de Witt, Nicholas Duncan, Monika Dunnet, Steve Harrison, Geoff & Kim Hoddy, Gil Johnston, Kevin & Petrice Judge, Karin Keighley, Norman MacNamara, Nicky Marlow, Carol Murray, Lynn Murray, Mike Palmer, Marlene Pearson, Betty Pitcher, Bev Poor, Pat Ramsey, John & Sonya Rodda, JJ Soh, Martin Storey, Grahame Strong, John & Carol Trevillian and Evelyn Wong.**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2005/06

These are the projects that we have supported during the past twelve months:

Tracking & specialised equipment	A\$25,665
Midlands Conservancy	18,830
Veterinary drugs & equipment	14,861
Hwange water supply	14,212
Southern African Rhino Programme	12,757
Field equipment, kit & clothing	12,261
Communication equipment	11,374
Sharon Pincott Elephant Project	5,400
Tikki Hywood Trust	4,516
Save The Rhino Trust, Namibia	3,125
Painted Dog Project	2,700
4 wheel drive spare parts	2,621
Victoria Falls Anti Poaching Unit	2,601
Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe	1,965
Imire Game Park	1,783
Bally Vaughn Game Park	1,736
Total	\$136,407

Membership Renewal Form

Your membership renewal form is enclosed. Please take a moment now to renew your membership, which will help continue the work you have just read about.

Who is Hunter Hall?

Hunter Hall International Limited (Hunter Hall) is an ethical investment company and owner of ethical investment manager Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited. Hunter Hall manages three ethical equity trusts – the Value Growth Trust, Australian Value Trust and Global Ethical Trust and one listed investment company, Global Value Limited.



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Contact details – 1800 651 674

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The nineteenth Annual General Meeting will be held at the Perth Zoo Education Centre, Labourchere Road, South Perth, at 7 pm on Tuesday, **11 July 2006**.

AGENDA

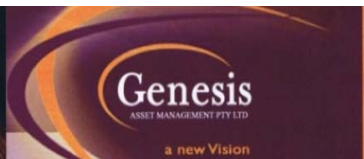
1. Acceptance of the minutes from the eighteenth Annual General Meeting held on 11 July 2005.
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Executive Committee
5. Any other business

Proxy forms and nomination forms for the Executive Committee are available from the SAVE FOUNDATION Office at 229 Oxford Street, Leederville, telephone 08 9444 6550, and must be lodged on or before 6 July 2006.

There will be a power point presentation of our major efforts of the past year. We will bring you a video on the latest rhino operations and safaris. Please feel free to bring your family, friends, and acquaintances along to this social event. To assist with catering for the night, we would request that you please ring Kim on 08 9272 4666 or email us. Thank you.

Why not come along to learn more about our causes and adventures in Zimbabwe?!

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