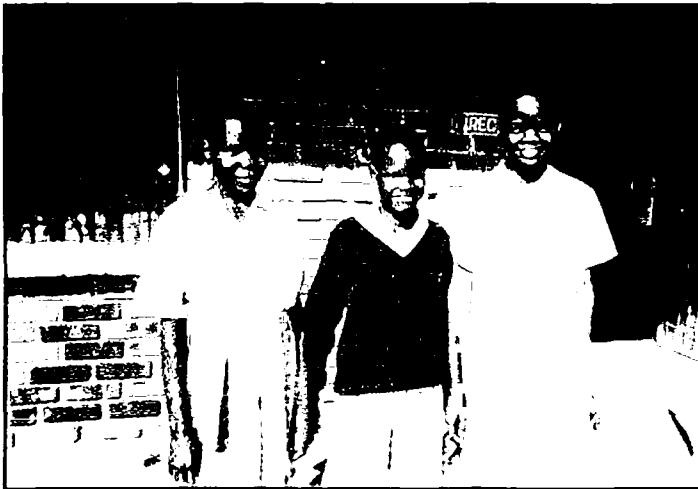


# SEBAKWE NEWS

Editor : John Gripper

Registered Charity : 328461

## Scholarship Girls



Patience, Sheilar and Nomatter were last year each awarded a Rhino Scholarship to attend Rio Tinto secondary school in Kwe Kwe. Without these scholarships they would have left their primary school in Sebakwe at the age of 13 or 14 and their school education would be finished. With high unemployment, they would have had great difficulty in finding a job in the rural community.

With their better secondary education, what does the future in the world hold for these three girls ?

Internationally, we have seen an escalation of violence around the world with wars in the Balkans, Africa and the Middle East. International peace keeping forces occupy Kosovo, Somalia, DR Congo, Afghanistan, Iraq and now Lebanon. Western nations supply arms and terrorists movements flourish in these conflicts. Our leaders have struggled and failed to resolve differences of nationalism, ethnic origin and religion by diplomatic and peaceful means.

In Zimbabwe, where these three girls will grow up, we have a different sort of crisis – that of an economic collapse. The redistribution of land has been followed by a drastic fall in agricultural production with the need to import maize – a staple food. Valuable export markets have been lost for tobacco, beef, flowers and vegetables with a major loss of overseas income. The other main source of forex is from tourism which has also declined dramatically.

As a result, Zimbabwe has a recession and a growing debt problem with a shortage of foreign currency so that it cannot afford to pay for its essential imports such as fuel and electricity supply. The resultant hyperinflation has soared to over 1,000% and the rising cost of basic foods is affecting every family – especially those on the minimum income levels.

The Conservancy has been seriously affected by the uncertainty over the future of the land reform programme and the widespread poaching of wildlife, especially the killing of rhino by the professional poachers. It would be easy for those of us in the Western World to give up and retreat to our comfortable homes – but that is not our intention. There is a better future for Zimbabwe and we want to be part of it for the rhino and these three scholarship girls.

## Works within the Conservancy by Nigel Overall

Zimbabwe's declining economy is increasing the mining and extraction of its natural resources. Palladium, and Gold are all being sought. As the local landowners do not own the mines, they have no control over where or when this work can take place.

Chrome extraction is taking place in the conservancy, with contracts lasting until 2008. Recent investigation works have been done by a Chinese company further with prospecting and mining works are expected to begin soon.

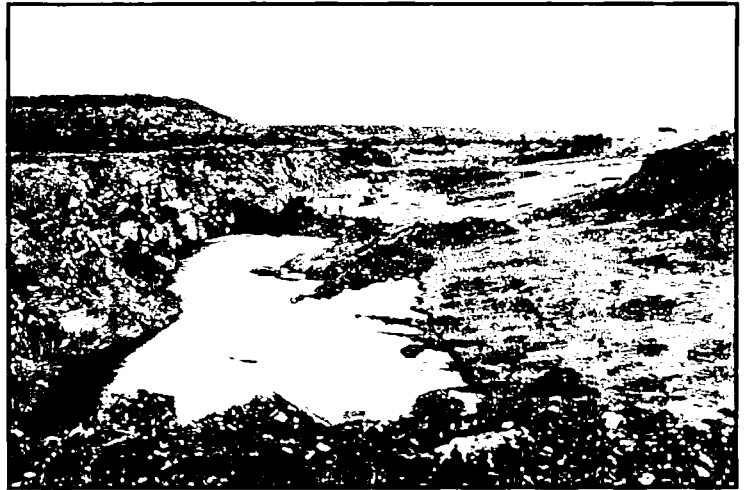
The chrome extraction works are of open cast mines and are being undertaken on a vast scale involving large machinery and blasting. The seam of chrome stretches down into the ground at an angle of 40 degrees from about 12m to 22m depth, and therefore large quantities of overburden material have to be removed to expose the chrome seam.

Each month at the existing mines some 200,000 tonnes of material is being extracted to retrieve about 8,250 tonne of good quality chrome.

Once exposed the chrome seam, which is only around 300mm thick, is broken out by gangs of men using hand air breakers. It is then loaded into lorries and transported to the smelters near Kwe-Kwe, where it is melted into 10 tonne nuggets and exported.

Landowners have concerns that the noise and vibrations created by these works could be driving the wildlife away. In addition the increased number of employees and their families which are being brought into the area to work the mines also give cause for concern of poaching and wildlife disturbance.

The small upside to the existing rural area is that the quarry lorries are serving as a replacement means of public transport following the withdrawal of the local bus services due to increased fuel costs. Furthermore as it is cheaper for the quarry companies to maintain the roads used by their trucks themselves rather than fund the cost of mechanical repairs required by operating on poorly maintained public roads, the roads are currently in a reasonable condition.



Open cast mine



Chrome seam



Workers camp

# Diary Record of Visit in July 2006 by Nigel Overal

## Friday - Day 1

Arrive Harare airport following 10 hr overnight flight from London's Heathrow. Met by Ray Gripper. Morning meeting with Raoul du Toit WWF to discuss current poaching situation within the Midlands Conservancy and exchange thoughts on necessary action and financial funding requirements. Late breakfast (13.00hrs !!), headed off to the Midlands. Ray came with us to do audit on Education Centre so he drove. John and I got some shut eye during the 3 hr journey. On arrival at Bemthree we were met by Bob & Jenny Swift and Behizi their 2 month old orphaned Zebra. Weather cool and cold at night - I thought Africa was a hot country, but then it is their winter !!!



## Saturday - Day 2

Morning meeting arranged with Lockie (MBRT Chairman), Keith (Monitor), Norman (National Parks) Ken (Chinyika Ranch), Bob (Bemthree Ranch) John and Myself. Obtained update on poaching situation which currently seems to be targeting Chinyika. Discussed and prioritised the necessary actions required - Dehorning, increased security and monitoring, road booms, additional resources and funding needs. Discussion as to methods used by poachers and their sources of information.

Afternoon visit to the Education Centre. Met Clayton (Programme Manager) and had a look around. Last time I visited was in Nov 2003 when the construction work was still going on. What a change, everywhere looks really good, well kept and tidy. It even has its own demonstration vegetable plot. Thank you letters from schools that have visited are displayed on the notice boards.



### Sunday - Day 3

Spent the day with Keith. Learnt about the rhino monitoring work he is responsible for. Tracked rhino on Pitscottie Ranch with the tracking equipment. This detects and identifies the rhino by the transmitter that had previously been inserted in it's horn. John had his new digital camera but not sure how to use it - Keith showed him with a little help from the instruction book !!! Early afternoon successfully located and tracked Senorita and her calf. I took some pictures but not very good ones !! John got a closer sighting but only got a distant picture, because the wind changed direction and the rhino detected our presence. It gave a loud snort and charged off at high speed.



### Monday - Day 4

Got an early morning call at 06 45 as monitors had a visual on Tapiwa. Went out and saw her. They say 'Rhino before 9 if not after 3' - and that is so true !! visited the Medical Centre and delivered the holdall of medical aid that we had bought over. Existing supplies were low and the nurse Mr Fortunate Mayo was very pleased to accept them. Whilst there a mother and family arrived, the Children suffering from colds. Returned for lunch and were joined by Behizi !!!

Afternoon - Called in to Sebakwe school, (headmistress away). School looks run down, one class room completely out of use as roof collapsed. Trip to Twin Springs Ranch to see if we could locate Rosalind. Got a visual but again photos no good as too far away- Rhino are damned hard things to photograph from a safe distance !!!

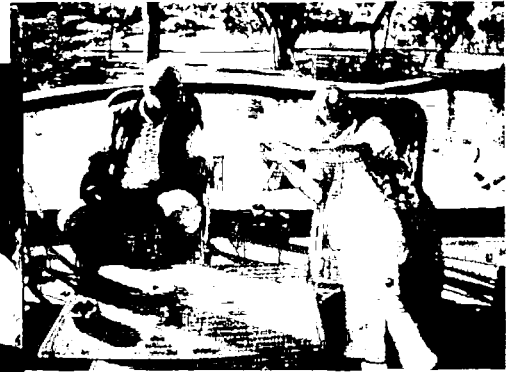


### Tuesday - Day 5

Morning meeting at Education Centre. Long agenda discussed future needs, (water tanks, blankets, kitchen equipment, vehicle repairs, fuel supplies, computers, telephone and more). Ray reported on the progress of his audit and complemented Clayton on the successful running of the business to date. Discussed staff salary review - (salaries have to be reviewed every 3 months as inflation running at 1,000%, it's unbelievable !!!)

Visit by Verity Bowman - Director of Marwell Zimbabwe Trust a registered charity dedicated to conservation of the wildlife in Southern Africa. Verity is based near Bulawayo about 3hrs drive away. John had met her recently in UK and invited her to come and visit our Education Centre. She came with one of her Education Officers who was able to exchange ideas with Clayton.

Lunch for 14 people was arranged at Nyangombe Safari Camp to meet with the Midlands Governor Mr C.G. Msipa. Both John & Verity updated him on the importance of the wild life to Zimbabwe's future and the need for conservancy work. Afternoon spent at Camp, relaxing and exchanging ideas and views on various matters.



### Wednesday - Day 6

Morning meeting at Dingaan's Kraal Safari Camp with other Farmers from the conservancy. Lockie (MBRT Chairman) set out the required actions that were to be implemented to secure the Rhino and the future running of the Conservancy. General discussion took place. Discussions held over the current and future mining works that were going on within the Conservancy and the action required to deal with a stray bull elephant which had made it's way into the Conservancy.

Afternoon visit to the Education Centre and sat in on the Annual Schools quiz event which Clayton had organised. 6 Secondary School teams took part with an audience of around 60 supporters. Kwe-Kwe High school came top and won the first prize - a 3 day visit to the education centre for 12 pupils from their school. Everybody seemed to really enjoy the event - Clayton had worked hard to make the event the success that it was.



### Thursday - Day 7

After early breakfast said farewell to all at Bemthree. With an eviction order currently placed upon them under the Government's controversial Land reform policy to move out in September this might be my last visit to Bemthree Ranch as we know it.

Travel to Kwe Kwe and a final meeting with Lockie to complete the budgets on the various equipment and resources which have been identified as essential for the immediate survival of the remaining Rhino. Prices all in Zim dollars but everything goes up by the day so best estimates are needed !! Met Storm the Conservancy secretary for the first time.

Travelled on to Harare.

Called into the Camfed offices for an update on the School Scholarships programme and discussed future needs for next year. Also visited WEZ headquarters to meet Dr W. Nduku, a Trustee of the Education Centre.

Hoping to do a bit of shopping in the local street markets to buy a few gifts to take home but they had all been cleared away as part of the governments clean up operations.

On to Ray's house at Borrowdale Brook for a special supper to celebrate his birthday!



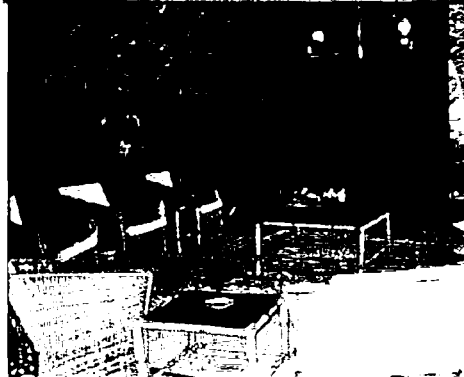
### Friday - Day 8

Up early and on to Harare airport for 7.00am. Found a few gifts to take home to family. Flight left on time at 09:20 (Lady Captain), plane only about 1/3 full so plenty of space to spread out into. Seemed a long flight home to Heathrow. Short wait for coach to Oxford and met by Annie. Back to Manor Farm to collect my car arrived back home about 20.15. Seems to have been a long day and very strange to think that only this morning I was out in Zimbabwe.

On reflection a busy trip but one which we have been able to give/show our support to the MBRT. It was good to see the Education Centre in use and the work that Clayton has been doing. Not an easy job when you consider things like hyper-inflation, lack of a phone line, and other everyday resources.



## Photo Gallery





## The Round Britain Rhino Christmas Quiz 2006

Numbers of letters in each word relate to place names in Britain. Completed entries should be sent with a £1 donation by the 10th January 2007 to :- Annie Gripper, Manor Farm, Ascott under Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6AL

(If you would like a copy of the correct answers then please enclose a s.a.e. - they will be available after 10th January 2007 !!)

1	7	Cornish window divider		51	9	Western water	
2	6	Little Elizabeth on a little road		52	8	A warm place	
3	2,4	Saintly dance minus jay		53	5	Below here	
4	6	Professional Group		54	5	Eaten by us all	
5	4	Abu denied being involved in it		55	8	Pet sow runs round behind church	
6	8	Wait by the river crossing		56	3,2,3	Cattle feed by the river	
7	4,5	After dinner drink for Jacob's father		57	10	West success for singing Charlotte	
8	7	Season this tree		58	6	A bit of a crash, bang, or wallop	
9	4	Something's brewing here		59	8	Australia leads west for rugby score	
10	9	Chop down cathedral		60	10	Battling heavyweight	
11	11	Monarch's crossing		61	5	Found in Whitehall outhouse	
12	8	Redesign grot plan		62	11	Peter's chloe is distressed	
13	6	Where you live - perhaps		63	8	Rosa fled away	
14	8	Where some display ermine headwear		64	9	Barn house demolished	
15	7	Sounds as if you had better look out		65	5	What the cock did at one point	
16	5	Some Afro-mediterraneans found here		66	7	Tangle coil of hair	
17	4	Avoid the shower		67	9	Designated for children	
18	11	Campaigner re boy chimney-sweeps		68	8	A quiet place to go	
19	8	Encircle copse		69	10	A wheelie crossing	
20	5	Herefords or Ayrshires ?		70	7	A good place to invest in	
21	10	Have an appetite for water crossing		71	9	Dark water	
22	9	Clamy Beer		72	8	Manuscript in gold church	
23	8	Chicken Pasture		73	5	Sounds like reinforcement	
24	4,9	Facing West smile broadly here		74	10	Redeem winner without north queen	
25	11	Well tanned pate		75	6	Know most of surrealist painter	
26	5	Sounds like Morse's side-kick		76	7	Cumberland town broken up in Perth	
27	3	Cereal to fill your pockets ?		77	6	Sir Alf ?	
28	7	Spoil the opening		78	6	High backed Yorkshire bench	
29	8	A snack for a Lord		79	10	Renowed for its liquorice fields	
30	5,3	Unsettled ? Be a Henry		80	11	Spoil the state	
31	12	Bonfire area ?		81	5	Initial death wish on place	
32	5	Snatch a little sleep some time		82	9	Not Eastern apple centre crossing	
33	8	Mash mare brutally		83	7	Lack win somehow	
34	7	End of a cock-horse ride		84	7,6	Heart surgeon's stronghold ?	
35	8,6	Not Ron after delivering slicing shot		85	7	Centre for artificial hair	
36	9	Oxfordshire rock festival		86	4	Hunt objectors cry	
37	6	Be off - and telephone		87	7	Be asleep uneasily ? Take one away	
38	5	Doesn't sound at all wild		88	11	Trojan heroine's Scottish HQ ?	
39	11	Pilot hero paddled		89	5	The damper the better ? Partly !	
40	5	Reddish-yellow		90	8	Lo, Paul, Lo ! A coastal town	
41	7	Cuts up a hundred		91	9	Remove back of store ? No way !	
42	9	See setting sun again		92	9	Sounds like days, weeks and months	
43	6	Chrome plated Italian capital		93	4	The heart of the cradle	
44	4	Lady on bow of steamship		94	6	Boil rice - double forte !	
45	13	Deity heads industrial northern city		95	10	Heavens not upset	
46	5,4	Monarch's woman		96	8	Get here East via Rome	
47	8	Plan digs for bulbs		97	5	Greek marbles	
48	6	A drop-in for tea		98	5	Sky between points north	
49	9	Bass to defend this port		99	4,7	Bastion of the royal grandson	
50	2,6	Saintly Welsh village		100	7	Corn hod shake up	