



## CONSERVATION TRUST NEWS


**W**e welcome Tim Williams as Marketing Executive of the Natal Parks Board Conservation Trust. Tim was born and educated in Natal and has had extensive experience in sales and marketing, having worked mainly in the food and beverage sectors previously. He brings great enthusiasm to the task of managing the Trust, which has gone from strength to strength since its establishment in 1989 when it became evident that the future of wildlife in the province must be secured despite a steady decline in state funding.

This year's KwaZulu-Natal Game Auction in June raised more than R136 000 for the Conservation Trust: two centenary bronze rhino sculptures were sold at R10 000 each; raffle ticket sales amounted to R2 000; and art print sales fetched R550; the Board donated two white rhinos which fetched an amount of R105 000 for the Trust; and a private buyer re-auctioned a giraffe and donated the proceeds (R4 000) to the Trust.

Pietermaritzburg's Royal Agricultural Show in May also proved a success, fetching approximately R10 500 from raffle ticket sales.

The Natal Parks Board Conservation Trust is an independently registered capital fund from which only the interest is used for conservation in KwaZulu-Natal. This will ensure that irrespective of future developments in South Africa, money contributed to the fund is secure and can be used for furthering the work of conserving our province's rich wildlife heritage. The investment fund will continue to grow and ensure a regular and steady income on an ongoing basis.

If you would like to support the Trust in any way please contact Christine Bateson or Carol Scheepers on 0331 - 47 1961. Your

ideas will be most welcome. If you wish to make a pledge on behalf of the Trust, please complete and post the enclosed coupon. 

- William Charlton-Perkins



Two signed copies of sculptor Dylan Lewis's black rhino bronze are being raffled on behalf of the Natal Parks Board Conservation Trust. These are valued at R10 000 each and are from a limited edition of 100 produced last year to mark the centenary of conservation in KwaZulu-Natal. Raffle tickets cost R25 each and are available at Ntshondwe camp in Itala Game Reserve and at Hilltop camp in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park.

## NPB HEAD RECEIVES MAJOR AWARD


**T**he Chief Executive of the Natal Parks Board, Dr George Hughes, was presented with the prestigious SATOUR Chairman's Award at a function in Durban on 7 May 1996.

The award recognises that under the leadership of Dr Hughes the Natal Parks Board has become one of South Africa's leading eco-tourism components. While he has engendered a strong team spirit at all levels of the organisation, Dr Hughes insists that the Board's achievements are the result of the combined efforts of his staff.

The Natal Parks Board has a string of major conservation successes to its credit. Although it is famous for the saving of the white rhino, the Board also conducts one of the longest running sea-turtle conservation programmes in the world; its rhino and game capture units are amongst the best in the world and it operates one of the largest community outreach programmes in Africa.

Dr Hughes also led the team which produced the Board's arguments to counter the dune-mining proposal for the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia. He rates this particular victory as the realisation of a dream. For the first time the State has allowed nature conservation and eco-tourism to take their rightful place in the eyes of the world.

During 1995 the Natal Parks Board received 10 national and international awards for its facilities and conservation work and is acknowledged by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to be one of the leading nature conservation agencies in the world.

This is a fitting tribute to Dr Hughes, his philosophy of service through excellence and, in keeping with his own insistence, the efforts of his dedicated staff. 

- Jeff Gaisford