



SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc.)

Newsletter - May 2003

Volume 14, Number 1

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

President's Report

It's been a long time between drinks, so to speak, since our previous Newsheet last year. In that time we've had two very interesting visitors from Zimbabwe giving their visual presentations at the Perth Zoo Theatrette, our AGM and film night was held in the middle of the year, and our inaugural **RE/MAX 'Black Rhino Legends Cricket Eights'** took place last December, *raising over \$80,000* - our best ever event!

Everyone would be aware of the declining conditions in Zimbabwe and we continue to feel for all the people, the wildlife and other animals who have experienced such devastating times. Constant reports are received of the human and animal atrocities being committed. We take our hats off to Henry Olonga and Andy Flower for their brave actions during the recent World Cup Cricket Series.

During the past two years at least 60% of Zimbabwe's wildlife has been killed by poaching, mainly primitive snares and dog-hunting. We continue to support a few small projects with their anti-snaring patrols.



*The subject of SAVE FOUNDATION's mission.
(courtesy of "Sebakwe News", UK.)*

Of more significance is the recent poaching of 10 black rhinos in key national parks areas. There hadn't been any rhino poaching since March 1994 and then suddenly in January this year it all started again. This is well-organised commercial poaching using AK47 weapons.

Further on you will read of the various projects we have supported during the past year and you will probably be glad to see that we're giving help to both Namibia and Zambia, as well as Zimbabwe.



Our main corporate sponsor, Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited, has again most generously donated \$10,000 to the SAVE FOUNDATION, as well as larger amounts to The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and The Wild Camel Protection Foundation.



Thank you so much, especially Peter Hall.

With the ever-increasing use of modern technology, we constantly receive interesting emails that we would like to forward to our members. Accordingly, we request that you please supply your current email address so that we can keep you better informed. However, this is at your option, as detailed on the enclosed Membership Renewal Form.

We welcome the appointment of the new Board for the Zimbabwe National Parks Authority, together with a new Director-General. We really do hope that some tough decisions can be made in order for Zimbabwe to regain complete control of its wildlife estates.

Nicholas S. Duncan

Current SAVE FOUNDATION Executive Members

President:	Nicholas Duncan
Vice-President:	Kevin Judge
Treasurer:	Dawn Newman
Secretary:	Ken McDonald
Projects:	Neville Baker

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. The Trusts restrict investment in businesses which are harmful to people, animals or the environment.

Hunter Hall is committed to donating 5% of pre-tax profits to charities or charitable purposes. The charities their shareholders choose to support deal with environmental, social and humanitarian problems in today's world - their aim is to make the world a better place for now and for future generations.

ZIMBABWE UPDATE

The declining value of the Zimbabwe dollar has caused great strife amongst the population. As an example, in 1988 the official exchange rate for the Zimbabwe: Australian dollar was 3. This had deteriorated to 9 by 1996 and then dramatically dropped to 27 towards the end of 1997. Currently the official rate is 33 but the 'parallel' rate fluctuates between 900 - 1000!

This leads to all sorts of disparities in the economy. Some items have price control limitations imposed by the Government and others are market controlled. For example, fuel is Z\$75 per litre, a coke is Z\$130 and chicken and chips is Z\$2,500!

STOP PRESS! *Fuel has just increased to \$200 per litre and inflation is well above 250%! Times are really tough.*

There is a massive shortage of fuel, sugar, bread and mealie meal, with their availability being perhaps 2 days per week. This leads to amazingly long queues, some for 2 days, in the hope of being able to purchase their requirements.

Tourists are now a rare species, with perhaps only 5% of the tourist lodges still being open.

Despite all of the above, and the uncertainty of the farm redistribution programme, the black rhino has bravely soldiered on. Around Zimbabwe, some 4,000 of the 4,500 commercial farms have been redistributed to the needy, or so the propaganda says!

In reality, they have mostly been taken by the Zanu PF hierarchy, their financial backers and the highly ranked within the security forces. Some land has gone to the needy rural and displaced city people, where there is insufficient financial backing and supply of seed, fertiliser and equipment for the peasant farmers to succeed. The remaining 'landowners' use their farms as weekend retreats for partying and seem unprepared to do the necessary work for crops to grow.

Hence, there are vast tracts of uncultivated land causing a major food crisis for the 12 million people of Zimbabwe. The situation hasn't been helped by a shortage of rain during November/February.

RHINO CONSERVANCIES UPDATE

We have been supporting the various rhino conservancies since their inception in the late eighties, particularly the Midlands, Bubiana, Gourlays and Imire. With the land invasions of recent years their future has become increasingly dimmer and law and order has all but broken down in parts of these conservancies. Naturally, that has had an impact on the habits and habitats of the indigenous wildlife.

All things considered, the black rhinos have survived pretty well across the board, with only a few reported deaths, mainly from snaring wounds. Dr Chris Foggin, Head of the Wildlife

Veterinary Unit, has been tremendous in his response to calls for his expertise. Thanks, Chris, for performing more than your fair share of veterinary duty.

Richard and Carol Pascall, owners of Gourlays Ranch, home to 35 rhinos, were evicted from their property just over a year ago, and it has since been settled by war veterans, and more recently, gold panners. National Parks has had a presence in the area to make sure the water has kept flowing, but there is now so much conflict between the various occupying parties that these rhinos will have to be removed to a safer location. Meanwhile, Richard and Carol have leased another neighbouring farm.

Ken and Di Drummond, coordinators of the Bubiana conservancy, report some five rhino deaths over the last three years. However, their numbers now exceed 100 over this vast tract of land, up from the original 35 that they were given for safe-keeping. We continue to monitor the situation closely, offering encouragement and equipment for their anti-poaching team.

In the Midlands, last year they appointed a new conservator, Ferdie Terblanche, who is doing a great job in bringing these 16 adjoining farms into a more coordinated unit. We assisted in the purchase of a re-conditioned Landrover for Ferdie's use around the conservancy.



The fully re-conditioned 4WD Landrover pickup donated to the Midlands Conservancy in conjunction with Rhino Recovery and L.R. Manufacture & Sales (courtesy 'Sebakwe News', UK)

In this area there are now well in excess of 70 black rhinos and it's proving to be yet another successful conservancy. We sadly report the death of Tafara, killed by an intruding bull. This is one of the side effects of land invasions disturbing the home range of territorial males.

The biggest conservancy of them all, Save Valley, has had the most land invasions of anywhere, with the consequential massive wildlife losses, including a few rhinos. Happily, though, their numbers are also approaching 100, yet another success story in rhino conservation.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/
FILM NIGHT
Thursday, 19 June 2003
SEE ATTACHED NOTICE**

Paul de Montille

On 1 May last year, Paul de Montille gave a most interesting and enlightening visual presentation to our members and friends, at the Perth Zoo Thetrete. Paul is the owner of Miombo Safari Lodge, on the edge of Hwange National Park, and is also Founder of DART (Dete Animal Rescue Trust). For the past three years we have been supporting DART by purchasing much-needed veterinary drugs for Paul's work.

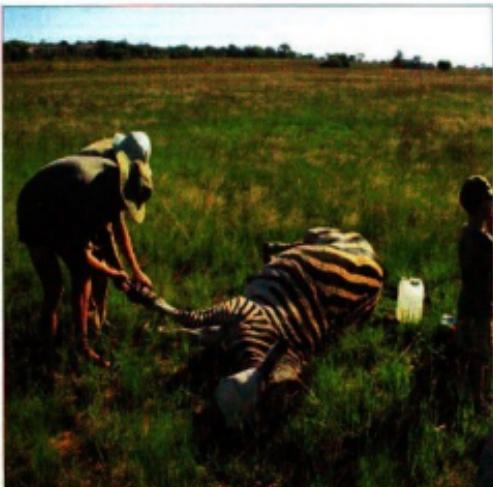
With the rampant snaring since the breakdown of law and order, there have been numerous examples of terrified wildlife being caught in wire snares, usually around their leg or neck. The bigger game, zebra, buffalo and elephants can break free but carry their snare with them until their slow, painful, death. Paul's work has been to dart the animals, treat the wound and remove the snare.

His illustrated explanation of all of this brought home the cruelty that wildlife has to withstand in order for man to survive in these times of economic decay.

Paul also highlighted the excellent work being done in his area by four researchers; Julia Salnicki with her Hyaena Project, Sharon Pincott with the Presidential Elephant Herd, Greg Rasmussen and his Wild Dog Project, and Andy Loveridge's Lions' Research.

As a result of fundraising at the event, \$2,500 was raised, to be divided equally between the above five projects.

Paul gave similar presentations at the other capital cities of Australia. Due to the economic uncertainty within Zimbabwe, Paul is now making arrangements to emigrate to Australia.



Paul hard at work removing a snare.

Julia Salnicki



Julia and Scout Nire putting a radio collar on a hyaena.

Julia made a flying visit to Perth last November, arriving at 3.30 pm, purchasing vital field equipment at 5.00 pm, before starting her presentation at the Perth Zoo Thetrete at 7.00 pm. Julia gave us some fascinating insights into the interesting life of hyaenas, making them appear far more endearing to us than we might otherwise have realised.

She has spent the last three years in a bush house in Hwange National Park, close to Main Camp, studying the many habits of wild hyaenas. Her talk was amply illustrated by a wide range of scenic slides.

In her 'spare time', Julia helps out at the local school at Main Camp. Despite living on the edge of one of the great national parks of Africa, many of the local children have limited knowledge of their neighbouring wildlife. Julia is rectifying this as well as adding many of her other talents to the school curriculum.

Through the sale of some of Julia's curios and products, as well as our own, a total of \$3,500 was raised to help with Julia's hyaena research during the coming year. This has provided a modern laptop for Julia.

Our special thanks go to Geoff Hoddy for kindly donating a range of African craft for sale at both Julia's and Paul's events.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
Now Due! See Attachment

EMAIL ADDRESSES
Please supply details for regular updates.



INAUGURAL 'RE/MAX BLACK RHINO LEGENDS CRICKET EIGHTS / DINNER-AUCTION' - A HUGE SUCCESS

TOMPKINS PARK, MELVILLE, WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2002

OVER \$80,000 RAISED !

Following three previous successful Cricket Functions in Zimbabwe in 1995, 1996 and 1997, the Inaugural RE/MAX Black Rhino Cricket Eights and Dinner/Auction were held in Perth on 3 and 4 December.

The festivities commenced with 'An Evening with David Gower' and other Cricketing Greats' at the fabulous Hyatt Regency Perth on the evening of 3 December. More than 350 people attended this Gala Event and a brilliant time was had by everyone. Our special guest, one of our Patrons, David Gower, and his gorgeous wife, Thorunn, lent their whole-hearted support to this function, ensuring its success.

David entertained the many corporate tables and other guests present with his usual witty and eloquent address, many people being in stitches throughout most of it! He is also passionate about wildlife conservation and set the tone for the successful auction that was to follow.

David also invited three of our prominent guest players to the stage to share their experiences and cricketing know-how, these being Clive Rice, Collis King and Kim Hughes.

All in all, it was tremendous entertainment for the packed Ballroom, and with freely flowing donated beers from Carlton & United and wines from Tucker Seabrook, the scene was set for a highly successful auction. Our celebrity auctioneer - Chris Shellbear of Shellbear Real Estate - was absolutely superb over a long period of time, with more than 30 items coming under the hammer. These included a tremendous range of framed cricket bats, autographed memorabilia, pictures and African sculptures. These all sold for some \$54,000.

Thanks, Chris, for your outstanding generosity in making this such a successful auction.

We acknowledge the following Corporations for their contribution to the success of the Auction and Cricket the following day:

DIAMOND SPONSORS

CGU INSURANCE/JARDINE LLOYD THOMPSON, COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA, GLOBAL MARKETS and WESTRAC EQUIPMENT.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

BHP BILLITON PETROLEUM, MACQUARIE BANK METALS AND MINING DIVISION, PETERS & BROWNES, THE SUNDAY TIMES and WOODSIDE VALLEY ESTATE/NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK.

GOLD SPONSORS

BRISTILE LIMITED, W.A. BUSINESS NEWS, HYATT REGENCY PERTH and REECE'S HIRE.

SILVER SPONSORS

PHILLIPS FOX, QBE MERCANTILE MUTUAL, VODAFONE and WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS.

BRONZE SPONSORS

AMP ADVISOR SERVICES, AUSSIEHOME.COM, BGC ASPHALT, KPMG, PERTH CRICKET CLUB, RADIO 6PR and WESTERN POWER.



WORLD EIGHT

Peter Carlotti (South Africa), John Hollis (Special Guest), Subroto Banerjee (India), Peter Grant (Corporate), Adam Hollis (England), Clive Rice (Captain) (South Africa), Collis King (West Indies) and Nicholas Duncan (Corporate)

AUSTRALIA EIGHT

Lee Crohan (Corporate), Merv Hughes, Julian Weiner, Rodney Hogg, Greg Matthews, Graham Yallop (Captain), James Muster (Corporate) and Trevor Chappell

ENGLAND AUSTRALIA EIGHT

Tom Hogan, Bruce Reid, Murray McGill (Corporate), Angelo Puccetti (Corporate), Kim Hughes (Captain), Tim Zoehrer, Wayne Clark and Mike Veletta.

Our special thanks also go to the following companies for their generous support at the Dinner/Auction:

Analects Creations for their picture framing.

Carlton & United Breweries for their Matesmate beer.

Chris McLellan for his limited edition print.

Chris Shellbear for his auctioning skills.

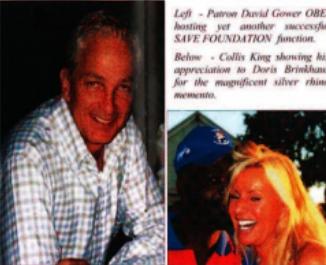
Coca-Cola for their soft drinks.

Himalaya Rug Company for their Indian cotton rugs.

Stage Connections for the audio visual equipment.

Touched by Angels for their centre-piece candleabras.

Tucker Seabrook for their Nederburg Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon wines.



Left - Patron David Gower OBE, hosting yet another successful SAVE FOUNDATION function.

Below - Collis King showing his appreciation to Doris Brinkhaus for the magnificent silver rhino memento.



under-rated West Indies player, and one of the heroes of their 1979 World Cup win.

Besides the 6 former test players in each side, there were 2 corporate players per team, all of whom had made very generous donations to be part of these cricketing festivities.

In the first match, the World team beat Western Australia by 16 runs. Then followed Australia's victory over Western Australia with an over and a few wickets to spare. The World side then defeated the Australia team by 20 runs and this set up the final between the World and Australia. It was reduced to 12 overs per innings due to the time, with the World scoring 132-5, Australia replying with 120-4, to give the World team their first victory from the 4 events already played.

There were many highlights to the day, with big scores coming from Merv Hughes (twice), Collis King (twice), Subroto Banerjee, Adham Hollis, Greg Matthews, Mike Veletta, Julian Weiner, Graham Yallop and Tim Zoehrer. The six corporates also distinguished themselves in some cricketing way or another.

All 24 players, plus the 4 celebrity umpires, (Ric Evans, Terry Prue, Peter Loader and Bill Powell), received beautiful silver cricketing rhino mementos, so generously donated by Doris Brinkhaus of Brinkhaus Jewellery, famous for the solid silver and Argyle diamond Hopman Cup balls. Thank you Doris for your wonderful support.

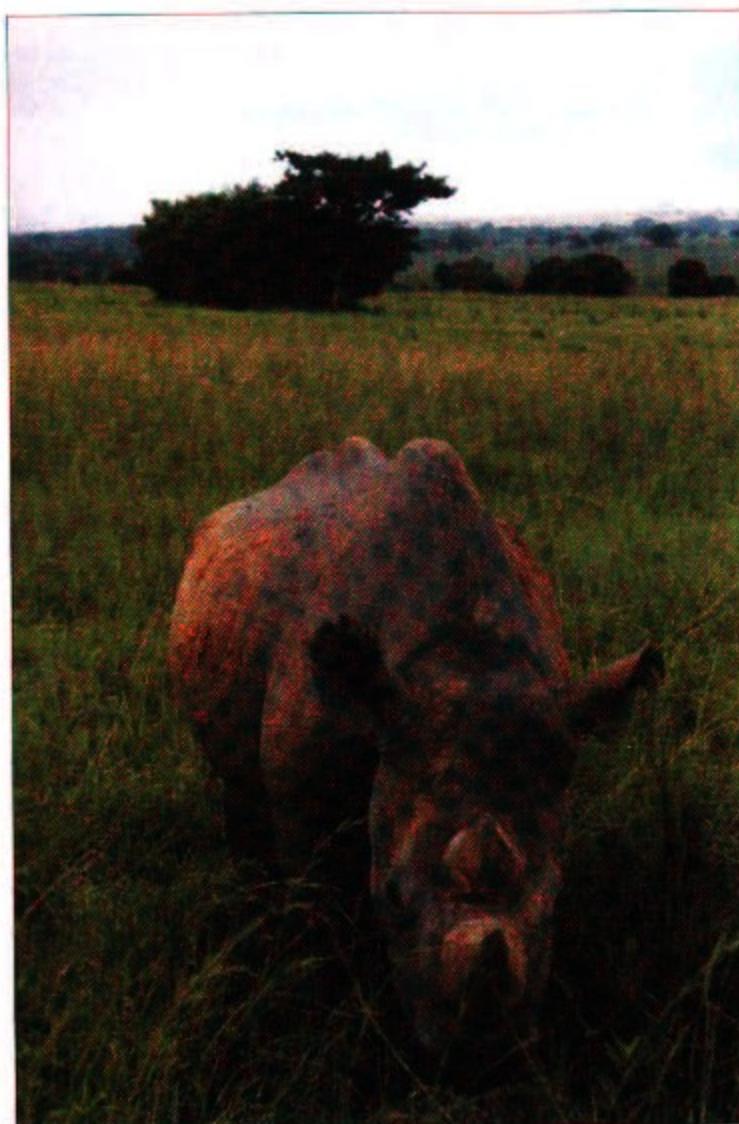
As a result of the corporate marques and dinner tables, the memorabilia auction, the gate receipts and the corporate players, a total in excess of \$80,000 was raised for black rhino conservation in southern Africa. This was our most successful venture in 15 years of fund raising and our thanks go to all the players for generously donating their time and expertise, the corporate package holders, Melville Cricket Club, the umpires and our team of willing volunteers, particularly Ken McDonald.

JANUARY VISIT

On the morning of Friday, 10 January, Lovemore Mungwashu (Acting Chief Warden for Zimbabwe National Parks), Paul Oleszcuk (former Chief Mechanic for National Parks), Fettes Falconer (member of SAVE FOUNDATION) and Nicholas Duncan, assembled in Harare to embark on a brief fact-finding mission to key areas within rhino conservation.

First stop was Imire Game Ranch, home of a very successful rhino breeding programme. Norman and Gill Travers have owned Imire for more than 50 years and were the first cattle ranch to have the foresight to convert to game ranching some 30 years ago. When protection was needed for the endangered black rhino in the late 80's, Imire was the first ranch chosen to be the new home of 7 small, orphaned rhino calves. Since 1997, 12 calves have been bred, of which 9 have been released into Matusadona National Park, 1 is still being reared by its mother, and 2, sadly, have died.

Imire is in the Marondera/Wedza area, one of the worst hit commercial farming areas. Three years ago there were 78 white farmers in the area, now it's only 6, with 4 due to leave some time this year. Imire is being allowed to continue due to its wildlife conservancy categorisation.



Part of the Imire success story.

John Travers now manages the property, with rhino activities being overseen by Ellen. Towards the end of last year we became aware of the declining condition of the rhinos, due to shortage of suitable browse and nutritional game cubes. We immediately came to their aid and provided 14 tonnes of cubes, as well as fuel funding for collecting browse. Currently, we are in the process of helping to re-kit the game scouts.

Our thanks go to John, Judy and Ellen for their hospitality during our short stay.

Next came a 500 km drive from Imire to Kariba to link up with Glenn Tatham, former Chief Warden for Zimbabwe and cousin of Fettes. Throughout this journey we were mortified to pass field after field after field of weeds and failed maize crops, due to mismanagement, lack of fertiliser and the drought conditions. We only spotted one big paddock of fully-grown, irrigated maize. In the past, this was the richest agricultural area of Zimbabwe and supplied vast amounts of maize for both the local and export markets.

We made the boat trip across Lake Kariba to Tashinga, HQ for Matusadona Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ). Here we heard of a recent incursion by a rhino poacher who was shot and injured but managed to escape. This was particularly significant as the previous day we had heard of the recent killing of 3 rhinos in another of the IPZ's, Sinamatella. Was the poaching nightmare of the late 80's/early 90's about the re-emerge? Time will tell.

What we did know was that Tashinga was sadly ill-equipped to cope with any well organised poaching syndicates. With only 1 of their 7 4WD vehicles being roadworthy and only 1 of 4 boats, we immediately became alarmed at the severity of the situation. Paul Oleszcuk, with whom we had a close association between 1988-94, provided on-the-spot diagnoses of repair details and within 20 minutes became reinvigorated with the challenge before his eyes. Paul had left National Parks in 1994 under a cloud of disillusionment with the system, and was about to return to England in early February, having been in Zimbabwe since 1988.

We offered to purchase the necessary parts if Paul would stay on for two extra weeks and complete the vehicle repairs as his parting donation to the country. To our great relief and with the minimum of persuasion, Paul agreed.

We had a meeting with Warden Eleckson Ndlovu and all his staff and gave them reassurances that the various repairs would be conducted as quickly as possible and that we would also provide 20 casual labourers for 45 days to re-build their road system. In return, we expected an increased commitment to the mutual cause and better maintenance of their vehicles.

Since then, we congratulate Eleckson and his team for their vigilance in the demise of 4 Zambian poachers and the capture of 2 others. This came about as a result of great work by the local intelligence network.

We then returned to Kariba and drove to Mana Pools, one of the world famous areas of the Zambezi Valley. This has been an area of much elephant poaching in the last two years and the death of one of the National Parks' scouts from a poacher's bullet. Again, the situation was drastic with only two of the

vehicles in use and a poor radio communications system. Paul again diagnosed the faults and we agreed to supply the necessary parts.

We were delighted to hear good reports about our recently donated back packs, bivvies and sleeping bags.



Ex-French Army waterproof sleeping bag and 35-litre backpack.

On our way to Mana Pools we happened to meet up with one of the Landcruisers we had donated back in 1993, with 291,000 kms on the clock! Its engine was a little worse for wear and it was on its way back to the workshop in Harare for a major overhaul. The following week we visited it and arranged for all the necessary work and parts to be provided. Sadly, it has taken some 10 weeks for this to happen.

At the workshop, believe it or not, we counted 41 broken down vehicles, some beyond repair, but mostly requiring some TLC and parts. Unfortunately, the 2002 budget has been used up and the 2003 had not been made available at that time. National Parks is now its own private authority and has to be self-sufficient. Naturally, with the massive decline in tourism, there has been a corresponding drop in revenue. It's a struggle!

Whilst back in Harare, Paul and Nicholas spent their time sourcing the various parts that were needed for the repairs, and purchased all that Paul needed to refurbish 2 Landrovers in Tashinga and 2 in Mana Pools. They are now back in action and Paul is back in England.



Nicholas (l) and Paul with the Landcruiser.

Thanks, Paul, for your great support in this time of need and let's hope you soon feel like another working holiday in Zimbabwe!

Nicholas then flew to Victoria Falls to be met by Warden Norman English from Sinamatella IPZ. On their drive to camp, they came across three scouts coming back from patrol on the Zambian border, each with their backpack, bivvie and boots that they received from the SAVE FOUNDATION back in 1995. That was a tremendous sight to see and testimony to their commitment with their kit upkeep.

We linked up with Verity Bowman from the Marwell Zoo Zimbabwe Trust, another NGO involved in wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe, and with a particular interest in the Sinamatella rhino project. Together, we visited the 2 sites of the recent rhino poaching. One was a mother and calf where the mother had been shot in the lungs and managed to keep going for another 300 metres before falling down with her calf beside her, who then met the same fate. All that remained of the adult was her thick hide and a few bones, whilst the calf was just scattered bones in the area. And this was all in the space of 10 days, courtesy of vultures and hyenas.



Remains of the female rhino.

The second site was just bones and this rhino had been able to run away from the poachers before dying and they hadn't been able to find it. Hence its horns were intact and National Parks had removed the skull and horns for safekeeping.



2.3 kg front horn and 1.3 kg back horn

We met with Norman and his team and thanked them for their past loyalty and encouraged them for their future success. One of the problems at the moment is the lack of mealie meal, making it very difficult to go on patrol for any length of time. Verity sourced some for them from Botswana and a former National Parks' ecologist found some on a farm near Harare. Verity has now secured mealie up until the end of June.

Some basic vehicle parts were donated to Simamatella, as well as a new set of tyres for the Warden's vehicle.

STOP PRESS! Tragically, 4 rhinos were killed at the end of April in Simamatella - *coincidentally whilst the patrols were off duty for 3 days*. New rhino monitoring operations are beginning in May and Nicholas will be attending these, together with holding talks with the hierarchy - a full report, plus video, will be available at the AGM on 19 June. (*Have you put this date in your diary?*)

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend our appreciation to all those who helped with the cricket festivities, especially -

Ken, Dawn, Laurie, Esther, Steven, Brigitte, Kay, Nicola, Julie, Neville, Delys, Kevin, Chris, Maree, Terry, Graham, Tracey and the boys of Melville C.C.

We could not have run the day without these volunteers.

COMMEMORATIVE LEISURE SHIRTS FOR SALE

We have some polo shirts available from the cricket match, with beautiful embroidered logos, ideal for golf or general leisure use.

They are in the three colours, red and blue for the World Eight, green and gold for Australia and gold and navy for Western Australia.

They are on special at \$30, including post and package.

COMMEMORATIVE AUTOGRAPHED & BOXED CRICKET BAT FOR SALE

There is one full size bat, autographed by all 24 players, and beautifully boxed and framed with selected photos from the day.

This is a great piece of cricketing memorabilia and you can 'phone Nicholas on 9444 6550 for more details (away in Zimbabwe until 6 June).