



SAVE FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)

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ZIMBABWE UPDATE

We are all aware of the difficult times that have been experienced in Zimbabwe over the past 18 months, and it is apparent that all sections of the community, regardless of race, are being hindered in their quest for a normal life. In such times of economical and political unrest it is not surprising that wildlife preservation is cast towards the bottom of the list of priorities.

Fortunately, there are very few reports of rhino losses, perhaps 8 in total, but there is some uncertainty of casualties in the private conservancies where many thousands of squatters continue to occupy. If this data is correct, then we can be thankful that it isn't a worse scenario.

However, rampant poaching of small game animals continues unabated throughout the whole of the country. This is killing hundreds of animals per week, mostly from wire snares causing a painful death.

One of the late Andy Searle's colleagues, Paul de Montille, owner of Miombo Lodge, has continued with Andy's work in the Dete region of Hwange National Park, namely the darting and releasing of snared animals. This is being done in a purely voluntary capacity by Paul and he has sought the help of various sponsors in England and Australia. The SAVE FOUNDATION has been supporting this work, via the David Gower Black Rhino Fund in Harare. We are purchasing vital and expensive drugs for Paul's use in the field.

We have been receiving regular monthly email updates, together with graphic stories and pictures. We congratulate Paul and his team, particularly his anti-poaching scout Nkulemane, who has done a brilliant job in collecting hundreds of snares and tracking injured animals.

We are proud to be associated with this project and will continue to offer our support. If any of our members would like to receive Paul's email reports, then please advise AnneMaree by email.

Working nearby, and a frequent visitor to Miombo, is Julia Salnicki, former chairperson of our NSW branch. Julia is conducting some very good research into hyeana activity, and receives on-going support from within the SAVE FOUNDATION community.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / FILM NIGHT

Notice is hereby given that the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc) will be held on Wednesday 18 July, at 7.00pm at the Education Centre of the Perth Zoo. The agenda will be as follows:

Business:

1. Acceptance of the minutes from the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5 July 2000.
2. President's Report.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Election of Executive Committee.
5. Any other business.

Nomination 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 7.00pm on Friday 13 July.

A light supper and drinks will be served after the films:

"Beautiful People"

This is a wildlife adventure story depicting the life in the animal community and was filmed against the scenic beauty of Southern Africa including the Kalahari, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

This is an entertaining and informative look at Africa's wildlife, and was produced and directed by Jamie Uys, creator of 'The Gods must be crazy' epics.

During the year we made a \$5,000 donation to the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation in England, to further help their excellent work with Zambian anti-poaching, Siberian tigers and Namibian black rhinos. Thirty bivouacs were donated to Mana Pools camp last November, to help protect the anti-poaching scouts during the summer rains.

We have a request from Norman English, warden of Sinamatella intensive protection zone, for support with deployment of his field patrols. Due to the scarcity of diesel and funding, and a recent 70% fuel price hike, he is no longer able to drop off his scouts on the park perimeter for their 14 day patrols. The guys have requested some solid bicycles that they can use, and have offered a periodic payment system so that they can own them within 12 months. Hopefully, this will ensure a high degree of maintenance. So, the SAVE FOUNDATION is in the process of purchasing 12 such bicycles.

ANDY SEARLE MEMORIAL FUND

Thank you to all our supporters who have most kindly given \$36,000 for Lol and Drew Searle. In particular, we thank Peter Hall from Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited for their most generous donation. Lol and Drew have been unable to thank you all personally, and have asked to express their appreciation through this newsheet. At the beginning of this year, they took up new residency at Chinhoyi Junior School, where Lol is serving as 'matron' and Drew awaits his first lessons. We are holding all the funds in Perth and we are advised that there is no immediate call on them.

LOCAL NEWS

At last year's AGM we made a few minor changes to our constitution, namely by prefixing our objectives in Africa with the word 'principally'. This gives us a slightly greater scope and enabled our donation to the Siberian tigers.

In November, our general duties committee member, Colin Rivers, resigned from the executive to become a 'grey nomad', touring around Australia by campervan. Thanks for your contribution Colin, and we wish him and Lorna a happy and healthy retirement.

We co-opted Sarah Murphy on to the committee and she brings enormous amounts of enthusiasm to her role. In particular, she has arranged for our large rhino money box to be displayed in the Galleria and hopefully in Carousel (Shopping Centres).

Our annual safari last year was for 11 days and included Imire, Spurwing Island, Kariba, the

Kingdom at Victoria Falls, Elephant Valley Lodge in Chobe and Gubare camp in Okavango delta. It was a fabulous trip and raised some \$6,000 for the cause.

We thank our honorary auditors, Irvine Partners, for their work, and Robin and Rebecca Ireland for their kind gift of \$400 worth of boat parts for Mana Pools in the Zambezi Valley.

T SHIRT SPECIAL

ONLY \$15

'Zimbos saving a horny friend' - plus logo

**YOUR RENEWAL INVOICE IS INCLUDED -
PLEASE REJOIN BEFORE THE A G M -
THANK YOU**

CELEBRITY CRICKETERS'

DINNER AUCTION RAISES \$40,000

On 4 February, 230 people attended this magnificent evening at the Hyatt Regency Perth. Our special guests were Heath Streak and the complete Zimbabwe cricket squad (who had just lost their one day match to the all-conquering Aussies by one run), Glenn McGrath, Andy Symonds and Barry Richards. Unfortunately, Brett Lee had promised to support but injured his elbow that afternoon. Our compere for the evening was Tony Greig and the key players provided great entertainment for the assembled guests.

We have just heard of the sad death of Trevor Madondo, one of Zimbabwe's opening batsmen on the tour. Trevor died from malaria and our condolences go to his family in Zimbabwe. He was a widely respected member of the national team.

As usual, the main fund-raising came from the Auction and there was a huge array of cricketing memorabilia, paintings and african stone carvings. Spirited bidding took place with most of the items and our main supporters were Celeste and Rob Baker, Trevor and Fay Pitcher, Craig and Margaret Flugge, Rod and Dee Pollit, Tony Percival, Owen Stickels and Allan Bale.

The total proceeds from both the dinner and the auction amounted to a mammoth \$40,000 going into our kitty for rhino conservation in Zimbabwe. Heath Streak was tremendously supportive with the promotion of the evening. Heath and his family have a game ranch near to Bulawayo and hope to form a conservancy with some of their neighbours. They hope to be stocked with rhinos from a nearby project that has been so successful that some need to be moved to another habitat. If so, the SAVE FOUNDATION will help with the translocation expenses.

Our special thanks go to all our many donors for this special gala event; **Landela Safaris, Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, Heath Streak Game Ranch, Pro Trader, Bank West, Judge Constable, Wealth Educators, Santina Stransky, Sandra Rolston, Geoff Hoddy, Steve Waugh, Adam Gilchrist, Justin Langer, Hyatt Regency, Chris McClelland, Pam Barbour, Helen Playford, Demmer Galleries, Tucker Seabrook, Carlton & United Breweries, Distinctive Print, Touched by Angels, Allmark & Associates, Tony Baker, ABC Radio, Channel 9, The West Australian, 6PR and 96FM.**