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# NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 1996 VOL9 NOS 3 & 4

### SAVE FOUNDATION

#### of Australia (Inc)

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## 12 MONTHS OF GROWTH

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We welcome our two new patrons, Bryce Courtenay AM and Nick Price, both of whom joined our team in October/November last year. We are absolutely delighted to have such celebrated men join our other two patrons, Lord McAlpine of West Green and David Gower OBE. That these people should want to be associated with the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc.) indicates the importance of the work we are doing and the results that we are achieving. None of our Patrons has ever hesitated when requested to lend their support and this is a fact of which we are truly proud.

Bryce Courtenay is the celebrated author, former advertising executive, whose name became a household word after his successful novel, "The Power of One", with over 2 million copies to become the largest selling novel by a living Australian author. This was followed by "Tandia", "April Fool's Day", and the recently released "The Potato Factory". Bryce is a very busy man and we are delighted to say that he is donating his services for a very special fund raising evening on July 24th, more of which is written elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our other new patron, the world's number 3 golf player, Nick Price, is at the peak of his professional golfing career at the moment and is also delighted to be our new patron, though due to his golfing commitments he will find it hard to donate much time over the next few years. However, he will be lending his support behind the scenes and he has a very genuine love of Zimbabwe and wildlife, having been raised in the former Rhodesia. Nick returns home to the country of his birth each year and is always happy to spend some time in the African bush amongst the incredible wildlife.

#### Policies are working

It's great to hear that rhino poaching remains under control in Zimbabwe and it is now 26 months since the last reported death from unnatural causes. In this time, about 35 calves have been born in the intensive protection zones and the private conservancies, and for the first time in 10 years the rhino numbers are in an upward trend and are now back to about 310.

Sadly, though, there is rhino poaching in South Africa and Namibia and the SAVE FOUNDATION will be monitoring this situation and offering whatever assistance it can.

The policy of September 1993 in which the rhinos were located in 10 areas of increased monitoring seems to be paying off and we congratulate the Zimbabwean Government and particularly the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, on their foresight in implementing this policy.

It has meant that additional patrols can now take place at frequent intervals and the SAVE FOUNDATION has been one of the major donors of supplies and kit for this to be possible. Just about every anti-poaching scout or ranger now carries a Motorola radio donated by the SAVE FOUNDATION, together with a backpack, boots, overalls, mosquito nets and bivouac. It's vital to look after the men on the ground as theirs is an unpleasant and strenuous task in often difficult conditions and rough terrain. We are also supporting the patrols in some of the private conservancies with similar donated items.

#### Internal difficulties

Whilst all seems well in the field, we are a little more concerned about some of the happenings amongst the Administration. During the past year, three of the four senior departmental officials have been suspended indefinitely and it seems that their "trials" are being unnecessarily delayed. In the mean time, the decision - making process and implementation of firm policies seems to have taken a step backwards and we only hope that "normal service" can resume again in the near future. Of surprise to us has been the grounding of the donated helicopter and the stopping of the apparently successful de-horning and collaring programmes. These were partial factors in the resignation of the two vets, Mike Kock and Mark Atkinson, who had worked devotedly and tirelessly for the past 6 years for Zimbabwe's rhinos conservation, but who unfortunately have now sought greener pastures. Thanks fellas, and good luck.

#### Charity cricket matches

Plans are under way for the next Black Rhino Challenge Cricket Match to be held in Harare on Sunday 29 September, between

a World Invitation XI captained by David Gower and including many legends from the past and present, and a Zimbabwe Invitation XI. This match can only be staged due to the generous support of Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, British Airways and Qantas Airways and to these companies we offer our sincere thanks. It is also hoped to play a day-night match the following week in Johannesburg between the World XI and a South African XI, hopefully captained by Mike Proctor.

Both these games should result in large amounts of funds and they will be used to support our projects in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia. Naturally, if any of our readers are keen cricket enthusiasts and would like a few days on safari at the same time then please contact the SAVE FOUNDATION office in Perth and they can make the arrangements for you.

#### **Renewals and merchandise**

Most of our readers will be receiving their membership renewals with this newsletter as we now have a common date of 1 April each year. Please re-join as it is quite evident that all the support that the SAVE FOUNDATION has given to Zimbabwe over the past 9 years is paying great dividends and it is fair to say that we are one of the major donors at the present time, and that some of the National Parks would be far less functional had it not been for our donated items. This is particularly the case at Sinamatella and Matusadona.

Our Perth office has now been re-organised and there are a variety of most attractive items for sale including T-shirts, carvings, cotton work, prints and a few other interesting items. They are imaginatively displayed and we do invite our West Australian members to pay a visit some time in normal office hours from Monday to Friday.

Some of our interstate members have joined through the head office in Perth whilst others will be on the register of their local state branch. We request that all those not known to their local office make contact with their branch so that they can be kept updated of any events that might be happening in the near future.

#### **Executive trip**

In February six members of the SAVE FOUNDATION visited five rhino projects with which we have close association and also held a number of talks with significant people. At the same time large quantities of donated equipment and kit were handed over and further details of this mission can be found later in the newsletter.

#### **Acknowledgments**

As we approach the end of our 9th year we take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us over this time, some of whom have been members from the very first day. Others have only joined in recent months, but to all of you, the Executive of the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia offers its very real thanks for the assistance you have given in making our dreams come true.

We would also like to acknowledge the vital role played by Zimbabwe's national air cargo carrier, Affretair, who have carried literally tons and tons of engines, tyres, kit, spare parts and radios from their depot at Gatwick airport to Harare. This has saved tens of thousands of dollars in air freight and to their Managing Director, Godfrey Manhambara, and his colleagues we express our grateful appreciation.

Finally, I'd very much like to thank the Executive members for all their work this year - Vice President Marion Bowers, Treasurer Kevin Judge, General Duties Officer Guy Tristram, former Secretary Bob Cooper, and current Secretary Ken McDonald. There is an amazing amount of work that has to be done and it is much appreciated by us all.

**Nicholas S. Duncan, President**

## **HISTORY OF THE SAVE FOUNDATION**

Save African Endangered Wildlife Foundation (SAVE) was launched on June 10, 1987, as the result of a meeting with Babette Alfieri who was giving a travel lecture at the Wesley Centre in Perth. A few of the audience were inspired by her references to the work that SAVE (USA) was doing to help the rhino in Zimbabwe and we were invited to form an Australian branch. We did this immediately. Then ensued a period of development in which we experimented with our fund raising including a quiz night, a stand at the Perth show, a raffle, a cocktail party at Bishop's House in Perth and various other activities. Gradually we were able to have sufficient money to start buying items of necessity and we developed our lines of communication with Chief Warden, Glenn Tatham. Some of the original SAVE Executive then visited Zimbabwe in August in 1988 and started to learn the problems from first hand experience.

Interested parties in Sydney and Brisbane then formed their own branches of SAVE and gradually the network started to expand. Steven Ward was particularly helpful in Brisbane and Sydney in the early days and he has continued his keen association right up to the present.

In 1991, Sue Pennicuik attended a SAVE function in Perth and on her return to Melbourne she started to make plans for a local branch in Victoria. She has organised this for the past 5 years and been a great stalwart of SAVE.

South Australia came on board in early 1994 and their initial leader was Darryl Heath, with his position now being occupied by John King.

Andrew O'Hara has been at the forefront of the Queensland branch for the past few years making use of his experience in Zimbabwe from frequent visits there as a Qantas steward.

In Sydney, Jan Dollin, has moulded the group in recent years and we thank all of the above named people for their many, many hours of hard work and their supreme efforts.

In March 1995, Save African Endangered Wildlife Foundation changed its name to the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc) and its ideals and efforts continued along previous lines.

We have now donated in excess of \$625,000 to buy vital anti-poaching equipment including 7 4WD vehicles, 15 motorbikes, 15 motors, 11 re-built engines and gearboxes, about 150 hand-held radios, tons of spare parts for all the above and personal kit of backpacks, boots, mosquito nets and overalls for all the anti-poaching personnel. To raise this amount of money has taken a lot of hard work and ingenuity and within the SAVE FOUNDATION we pride ourselves in doing things differently than other non-profit organisations.



*A SAVE FOUNDATION Landcruiser, full of backpacks and boots, with the Sinamatella IPZ Team and SAVE FOUNDATION officials.*

Most of our income comes from functions rather than on-going fund raising and we have had some excellent dinners/auctions with such celebrated guest speakers as David Gower and these have taken place in all the states and resulted in more than \$175,000 being raised. On top of this, we have conducted 6 annual southern Africa safaris with a built in tax deductible donations and these have also resulted in a large amount, about \$100,000. Over the years the Perth Royal Show has raised about \$75,000 and thanks to our members who have worked on these stands. Other shows in different states also brought in many thousands of dollars.

Memberships around Australia bring in about \$15,000 each year and this is one aspect we could improve. Every reader of this newsletter must know at least one other person who would happily contribute \$35 each year for the sake of saving one of Africa's big five game animals from extinction. Sales of T-shirts, prints, carvings and other items are responsible for quite a large amount of money and these are readily available from your local SAVE FOUNDATION office.

Some functions have been held in Africa, notably last year's charity cricket match resulting in \$25,000. Prior to that, there have been other fund raising events in Harare and Bulawayo and these funds go directly into the David Gower Black Rhino Fund monitored by a legal firm in Harare and used to purchase locally available items. Some of these funds have gone towards the building of accommodation and a workshop on the outskirts of Harare for the mobile maintenance unit. We also provide maintenance expenses in the I.P.Z.'s as well as funds to aid with local intelligence work.

Everything that the SAVE FOUNDATION has done in the past has been at minimum expense to the Foundation as a private company sponsors just about all the overheads. This would set us apart from most other charity or fund raising groups, a record of which we are justifiably proud.

However, with the increasing demand of administration and the maintenance of records and correspondence it is now becoming necessary for a part-time helper to be employed and we would imagine that an amount of about \$5,000 per year be spent in this way. It will certainly result in greater efficiency within the Foundation and your Executive agrees with this arrangement.

## EXECUTIVE TRIP

The SAVE FOUNDATION Executive's fact-finding trip of all our projects in Zimbabwe took place during February. Those who took part were Nicholas Duncan, Marion Bowers, Kevin and Patrice Judge and from the Melbourne branch, Ian and Marcia Maycock.

The first stop was Harare where we had meetings with several people, the first being breakfast with the Chief Warden of National Parks, Glenn Tatham. Glenn spoke of his 13 years with Operation Stronghold and the 200 lost lives, how National Parks has changed and is now self-funding, but, no money has come into the system yet, and internal communication was proving extremely delicate. Glenn is of the opinion that some Zimbabweans wrongly consider the white man's endeavours to be hoarding rhino for commercial purposes. Tourism resulted in Z\$1 billion and of this only Z\$30 million went back to National Parks, the very reason for the tourist.

Mike Kock, a vet working with National Parks since 1989 has resigned because it seems it is impossible for him to operate under the present National Parks management team.

Unfortunately, he is taking his funding with him for his research centre and veterinary unit. His partner, Mark Atkinson, has also resigned and has left for America with his wife Shirley who spent three months studying the browsing habits of the rhino, both in captivity and free range. Woody plants appear to be 90% of their usual diet. In the bomas they were given 12 species per feed, it was measured in dry weight and wet weight to determine the amount eaten. Her conclusions have proven extremely useful for maintaining rhinos in captivity on a balanced and plentiful diet. A copy of Shirley's commendable 100 page report is available for interested members. Mike, Mark and Shirley are a great loss to the cause and will be sadly missed.

At National Parks we handed over the latest consignment of equipment, including tyres, boots, backpacks, overalls, GPS units and an outboard motor. The Permanent Secretary, Mr. July Moyo, spoke of the continuing need for NGO support and the need for National Parks to make a positive impression as the C.I.T.I.E.S. conference was to be held in Zimbabwe in June 1997. He was also aware of the international interest in the survival of the black rhino.

Col. Lionel Dyke, of Rhino Rescue Trust, met with us before we set off on our trip to our different projects. His training operation had been halted but he believes they will be reinstated in the not too distant future. Changes in Park's head office are now inevitable, whether it will be for the better is anyone's guess, although, it couldn't be much worse. He appears quietly optimistic although time is of the essence.



Permanent Secretary, July Moyo, officially receiving one ton of kit from Nicholas Duncan, watched by Glenn Tatham.



Bob Swift (Midlands Conservancy) explains the new kit to their guard unit.

The Midlands Conservancy may have too many chiefs and not enough Indians. He suggested we don't give too much kit to the men, it makes them soft. Gary from Matsusadona IPZ didn't agree, he felt Lionel was sometimes too radical, so he modifies his training for his own anti-poaching team. Even with that they still pleaded with us to request the training be reinstated as soon as possible and the return of the R.R.T. mechanic for vehicle repairs. Lionel's final comment was that as a result of the

enquiry by National Parks into the land usage of the white farmers, commercial farming may be tightened up.

On leaving Harare we headed for the Midlands Conservancy. They do have 33 rhinos and 4 calves were born this summer, an acceptable birth rate. Monitoring is rather difficult at the moment because of the thick bush after the excellent rains. Raoul de Toit no longer appears to oversee the conservancy's operations. The Midlands has a new conservator, Pierre Favier, who will have a difficult job unless internal squabbles disappear, but babies are being born so I hope that personal differences are put aside and they continue to provide a safe haven for this lovely animal. A full set of kit (boots, socks, shorts, t-shirts, overalls, jerseys, packs and 2 GPS units) was presented to the 10 men of the anti-poaching unit, much to everyone's delight.

Sam and Janet Chambliss of Twin Spring Ranch are no longer part of the conservancy but they too have just had two births (sadly one subsequently died in an accident). Sam considers the C.I.T.I.E.S. conference could be of extreme importance, especially for the elephants.

At Bubiana Conservancy we handed over kit for the men, 51 pairs of boots and 8 GPS units. Ken Drummond spoke of the commitment of the farmers in the conservancy and thanked the SAVE FOUNDATION for its support and commended them on their constant updated knowledge of the rhino situation. All appears to be running smoothly and calves are being born at frequent intervals. Ken also mentioned his fear about the control of ownership of land and animals by the government.

We then visited Matobo IPZ in the National Park outside Bulawayo and they received boots, socks, packs, spare radio batteries and a special t-shirt. The SAVE Landcruiser was in Harare for repairs and is now back on the road. At Matobo, there is a good collection of both black and white rhinos in this IPZ.

Then it was on to Sinamatella where the men requested mosquito nets and bivouac tents, both of which have now been ordered and should be delivered to them in the near future. Due to the heavy vegetation there has been a lack of rhino sightings in recent times but Warden Norman English is confident that they are all safe and that at least 5 calves have been born in recent months. We met with Bob and Kim from the Wild Dog Project and heard of the really poor birth rates this year and promised to provide some vital darting equipment for them. We also met with Zoe and Sky Alibhai from Rhino Watch who requested cameras for photographic surveys of rhino footprints, to be subsequently analysed by their computer system.

When we visited Matusadona IPZ we were made aware of the acute shortage of funds for basic on-going maintenance requirements and we re-confirmed our financial support for this project, via the Zambezi Society. Warden Zeph Muketiwa is an experienced anti-poaching man and we fully endorse all that he is doing in this area. We established an incentive programme for the scouts and rangers whereby they can win a special t-shirt and a Swiss army knife for outstanding patrol work.

Dick Pitman of the Zambezi Society also funds Matusadona and suggested that closer monitoring should be given to some items of expenditure in the Park and that specific requests for funding should be made by the officers. Dick says that the whole National Parks situation is extremely grave at present.

As a result of our fundings, Nicholas Duncan and myself visited the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Cde Chen Chimutengwende, a meeting that could be described as encouraging. Although a very busy man, the Minister gave generously of his time and showed sincere concern for Zimbabwe's wildlife.

In my opinion the situation has deteriorated since the Executive's last visit, but a reshuffle in National Park's head office may occur and this can only be for the better.

Marion Bowers, Vice President



Little Chewore with two of her guards and their Matusadona IPZ Team t-shirts.

Presentation of  
packs, boots and  
t-shirts to the  
Matobo IPZ Team



## WORLD WIDE RHINO REVIEW

World Population Statistics	1993	1995
Indian Rhino	1870	2135
Javan Rhino	80	70
Sumatran Rhino	460	270
Northern White Rhino	36	29
Southern White Rhino	5780	7530
Black Rhino	2475	2410

The future of all five species of rhino in the world is precious to say the least. And the major cause for the rhino's rapid decline in the last twenty years is man made - the financial value attached to its horn. Even though the horn consists only of gelatin and keratin, incredibly high prices (up to \$20,000 per kilo), are paid for it by the traditional Chinese medicine markets of the far east, thus encouraging the poaching.

The continent of Asia has emerged as the number one culprit. The Indian rhino is attractive to neighbouring states fighting for independence who barter the rhino horn for weapons from Burma and this country in turn acts as the middleman and dispatch post for the horn's journey into China. China has a very disappointing reputation with regard to endangered species! So, the state of Assam, once the stronghold for the greater one-horned or Indian rhino, is under siege from the increase in poaching.

Another species of rhino, the Sumatran, is very high on the critical list. As we have little knowledge of the intricacies of this shy and solitary creature, all captive breeding attempts and relocations have failed miserably. Now the total number is approximately 270 animals living on the edge in Indonesia and Malaysia.

However, on a brighter note, one of the African rhino populations seems to be slowly recovering - the Southern White rhino. This is certainly encouraging.

The next meeting of C.I.T.I.E.S. (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) is in June, 1997, in Harare, and one of the main priorities must be the fight for the survival of the magnificent rhino. Rumour has it that trading in legal and illegal stockpiled rhino horn will be on the agenda. This could be disastrous and may attract more unscrupulous operators. We'll keep you informed.

## ANNUAL MEETING - DUBBO, NSW

From the safari camp we watch dusk settle over the savannah grass land. Against the setting sun a gangly giraffe stands silhouetted. Surprisingly it is joined by a mob of kangaroos. What a startling sight. This memorable blend of Africa and Australiana epitomises the Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, New South Wales.

This was the entirely appropriate site of the Second Annual SAVE FOUNDATION Meeting.

Twenty members from all around Australia convened at the zoo in March to generate ideas and share enthusiasm for the SAVE FOUNDATION's ideals. Nicholas Duncan and Kevin Judge represented the national Executive from Western Australia and outlined activities in the west, promoted fund-raising ideas and contributed to the development of future strategies for SAVE FOUNDATION in Australia and Africa. During the two day meeting members were interested to hear Nicholas's outline of the fact finding and distribution trip to Zimbabwe in February.

Ian Denny, Director of the zoo, reported on the successful breeding programme of the Zoo Rhino Project. One female is pregnant and another is possibly pregnant. It is rewarding to know that, despite the troubled transportation to Australia, all rhinos are in good health.

Between meeting sessions, members were able to tour the zoo and inspect, at close quarters, the results of the "Care Programmes".

The Queensland members were fortunate to have been able to stay at Zootari Lodge, a safari camp within the zoo's perimeters which overlooks the African Savannah grounds. They enjoyed early morning giraffe feeding sessions and exotic animal sounds at night whilst sleeping under the canvas.

Hundreds of animals from five continents roam freely around the zoo. It is worth a visit!



The conference group.



Alan Schaefer, Karin Keighley and Mary Schaefer playing scratch and match!

The meeting produced a fruitful sharing of ideas, particularly in the areas of fund raising and maximising of co-operation and co-ordination of all branch's activities. Some enthusiastically received ideas included:

- a golfing tour of Zimbabwe with Nick Price - unfortunately, Nick is unavailable at present
- a dinner-auction with Bryce Courtenay
- quiz nights
- memberships for corporations and life members
- a golfing day
- safari tours of Africa

The total funds expected to be raised by the state branches for 1996/97 is \$150,000, \$75,000 of which is budgeted by the head office.

Other issues canvassed included standardising SAVE FOUNDATION's name, logo, structure and financial accounts.

The meeting closed with all states agreeing to co-operate in order to streamline and maximise assistance to the African projects.

Kevin Judge, Treasurer

### VIEW - 360 DEGREES OF THE WORLD'S BLACK RHINO

As my heart burned,  
100 years or more,  
Due to the loss of the world's richness,  
Which had been in the shadow of death  
But as I now see

Standing eyes open  
Open to view 360 degrees of Twin Spring's natural heritage  
The tears like water that used to come  
Have now stopped.  
Stopped like the last rain from the fire moment.  
As the trees of life are not cut.

The ever green trees of life  
Dressed in their dark coulour  
The coulour of richness of the world  
Are now doing their breeding

Come second as I am the first to view  
As the great hope of the world is forfilled  
Forfilled with the joy of their multiplying  
Multiplying because of the way they are kept (protected)  
I mean the wonderful black rhino.

Let us stand together on this high mountain  
and view what is beyond.  
Open eyes wide, view all ends of the land  
See how they dwell and multiple

This I shall never say in dreams  
As the tears of joy are now dropping  
Dropping from heart to mind  
Because of their breeding and protection given  
I mean the wildlife king (the black rhino)

The first that was lighted as danger  
Had been stopped, stopped to the last degree.  
Except the newly lighted fire of breeding and protection  
That makes the world's heart tears of joy in mind  
In viewing the 360 degrees of the world's black rhino.

By Douglas Shoti  
Chief Ranger, Twin Springs Rhino Project

## QUEENSLAND'S ACTIVITIES

The year started well for Queensland branch members with four of our committee returning from travels in Zimbabwe. They brought with them many stories of hope for the black rhino in Zimbabwe. They also brought with them 'wish lists' from the Midlands Conservancy, Chipinge National Park and Chippingall Wildlife Orphanage.

Chipinge IPZ provided an insight into genuine and dedicated staff working at grass roots level in Zimbabwe for Vice Chairperson, Pat Matthews, and membership coordinator Stuart Rice. Chipinge is 3,000 square kilometres with no fencing and surrounded by communal lands inhabited by very poor people. Poaching and gathering wood in the park area is a way of life for them. Chipinge is out of the tourist run and seems therefore to have a very low profile and receive little support from anywhere.

At a meeting following the return of our members, it was agreed to fund the following:

Chipinge IPZ	10 pair of binoculars, a pump and engine for their bore hole
Midlands Conservancy	Camera equipment including tripod and film
Chippingall Wildlife	Donation of US\$200 to include sponsorship of baby rhino

11 of our members travelled to Dubbo and stayed at the Western Plains Zoo for the 2nd SAVE FOUNDATION get together in March. A good weekend was had by all who attended and goals were set to try and achieve before next year's meeting. It was great to get a cross section of ideas from the many people who have recently returned from Zimbabwe. It was also agreed to improve interbranch communication by minutes of monthly meetings being distributed around the nation.

SAVE QLD also experimented with the running of an Art Exhibition to raise funds. The night featured renowned South African artist Mel Brigg, (now living in Australia), who displayed 20 paintings and drawings of African wildlife. He was joined by 15 local artists and sculptors. An exclusive preview dinner and opening night cocktail party were the feature for the three week exhibition. A page write-up by local gossip columnist Ken Lord in the Sunday Mail newspaper was great publicity for the event and SAVE in Queensland.

The 1996 Holiday Ideas Travel Show starts in Brisbane in May and once again SAVE QLD has been donated a stand. At last year's event, many people joined and once again we will be selling memberships, T-shirts and small African artifacts to raise money for this year's projects.

A date for all members' diaries - if you happen to be in Brisbane or surrounding areas in October, you are most welcome to attend the 3rd Black Rhino Dinner Auction. The event will be held at the Queensland Performing Arts Auditorium on Saturday 5 October, 1996. Please phone (07) 3875 1847 if you would like to be sent an invitation or would like to donate an item to be auctioned.

## VICTORIAN NEWS

It has been pretty quiet in Victoria since our Rhino Ball last October and I desperately appeal to all readers to please offer whatever assistance they can to the improvement of our branch. Everyone is invited to our Annual General Meeting to be held at 11 Johnston Street, Northcote, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11 June.

Please ring me to discuss any aspects of the SAVE FOUNDATION in Victoria - (03) 9531 7309

Sue Pennicuik



Recipients of donated used clothing adjoining Bubiana Conservancy.

## WEDDING BELLES

We are delighted to announce that the Chief Warden in Zimbabwe, Glenn Tatham was married to Trudy Cairns on Saturday 18 November in Harare. We wish them every happiness in their future together.

Chairperson of the SAVE FOUNDATION, NSW, Jen Dollin, was married to the Vice Chairperson John Webber on Saturday 4 May. To them we offer our congratulations and best wishes for many happy years together.

The Warden at Sinamatella, the Intensive Protection Zone with the most rhinos, Norman English, has recently announced his engagement to Penny Roberts and they look forward to their wedding day in September. Many of you would have seen Norman, "Storming Norman" in the film "Flight of the Rhino". He was the barefooted warden at Chete when the rhinos were being caught for Australia.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc) will be held on Thursday 13 June, 1996 at 7.30pm at the Lower Pavilion of the Royal King's Park Tennis Club. The agenda will be as follows:

### *Business:*

- 1. Acceptance of the minutes from the Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 14 June, 1995.*
- 2. President's Report.*
- 3. Treasurer's Report*
- 4. Election of Executive Committee.*
- 5. Constitutional changes: Item 7 (b) to read "Admission to membership and the continuance of membership shall at all times be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee" Item 13(e) to read "In addition to the Annual General Meeting there shall be two General Meetings held each financial year convened at times and dates to be advised by the Executive Committee".*
- 6. Any other business.*

*Nominations forms for positions on the Executive, together with proxy forms, are available from the SAVE FOUNDATION office in Perth and nominations should be lodged at that office by 7.30pm on Saturday 8 June.*

# SPONSORS

The SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia has been fortunate in the support of so many sponsors during 1995/96. Some of these companies have been helping us for the past nine years, others have lent their support for the first time during the past year; some provide help in a big way, others in a small way, but whatever their contribution it is much appreciated and the Executive of the SAVE FOUNDATION has a big "thank you" for each one.

We hope, of course, that SAVE FOUNDATION members and readers of the NEWSLETTER will take time to read the sponsors' list and to reciprocate by supporting them whenever possible.

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## THE SAFARI OF 1995

With the 1996 safari well and truly on the way it is almost past the time when you should read of the success of "our" safari. Eight novices ranging in age from 22 to 82 were taken on an incredible adventure by Nicholas Duncan through many wonderful and interesting localities in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

A very abbreviated programme reads like this:

Days 1 & 2: Imire Game Ranch in Zimbabwe - a wonderful introduction to Africa, seeing most of the more common grazing animals plus seven beautiful big black rhino being cared for as part of the rhino protection programme; and an early morning elephant ride.

Days 3,4 & 5: A 1 1/2 hours flight to Musango Safari Camp on the shores of Lake Kariba adjoining the Mutasadona I.P.Z. Here we spent 3 unforgettable days viewing an enormous array of wild animals on the shore and in the water, from the safety of our boats. Later enjoying sundowners on the banks listening to the calls of the myriad of bird life. Rhino tracking, late afternoon canoe rides, fishing; the choice was ours.

We watched a wild black rhino feeding only 30 metres from us and had a memorable encounter with 14 month old Chewore, orphaned and now in the semi-wild with two African minders.

Days 6 & 7: Airborne again, via Kariba to Hwange, then a magical 3 hour drive to Linkswasha along a bush road: Our first wild giraffe then many more elephant, buffalo, zebra, baboon, numerous varieties of antelope including the beautiful kudu, sable and impala, warthog ... and on and on. The country was very dry so viewing around waterholes was very rewarding. During sunset drinkies we were threatened by "a fractious teenager" (elephant) but as our guide and protector was little concerned we enjoyed it immensely.

Days 8 & 9: That magical drive again. Dropped into Umshibi part way to meet Greg Rasmussen who was running a Save the Wild Dog project.

Arrived at the Victoria Falls Hotel about 3.30pm to the grandeur of a past era. Although suffering from the drought the noise of the Falls was deafening and swirling mists rose above the gorge in places forming tropical rainforests. The optional "Flight of Angels" across the Falls was a highlight for some of us.

A helter-skelter bus trip into Botswana, during which we saw our first cheetah on the roadside, and by plane to Camp Okavango. Dinner under the stars, candelabras, four delicious courses with excellent wine. This is bush living!

Days 10 & 11: This Okavango Delta is a birdlife paradise. Went on a very pleasant birdwatch with African guides who certainly knew their birds. Threatened by another elephant who eventually left us and ambled off. Evening dinner shared by a small herd of steinbok, the resident elephant and hippo!

The waterways are narrow and reed lined, wandering through the delta, which made our

evening canoe safari a very tranquil event. The following day we sped along in open 12ft boats for 3 exhilarating hours while transferring to our next camp. The birdlife was incredible in both variety and quantity.

Days 12 & 13: Welcomed to Moremi by the resident crocodile, Rufus, and warned to keep clear of the local elephant. The resident elephant and hippo caused much alarm by camping only feet from our accommodation. Elephant, elephant and more elephant on our game drive, plus our first lion and many other animals in large numbers.

Days 14 & 15: Moremi, Maun, Grootfontein, Tsumeb and Namutoni and Namibia where we were joined by Marion Bowers. What a change from the Okavango Delta! The country was very dry and rocky but with no less animals.



Transferring to the next air strip.



The reversal of roles (or was it rolls?)

In Namibia our camps were at Namutoni, Halali and Okaukeujo along the southern edge of the enormous flat Etosha Pan. More motel style rooms in forts built during the German administration. Our days were spent visiting waterholes where we saw zebra (a thousand at a time), lion (resting, hunting or eating zebra!), more elephant, giraffe - it was becoming tongue in cheek ho-hum! In reality the antics of animals in the wild will never fail to fascinate for hours.

Pleasant evenings were spent viewing animals at floodlight waterholes adjoining the camp boundaries and here we saw 5 wild black rhino and one calf.

On the trip we saw 1% of the world's wild black rhino population - a sobering thought when so many dedicated people are working to protect them; the Travers family at Imire; Steve and Gordon at Musango; Glenn Tatham and his staff, Zeph Muketiwa, Gary Douglas and Paul Wood; Hank Burger in Etosha and the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia.



A constant visitor to Camp Moremi.

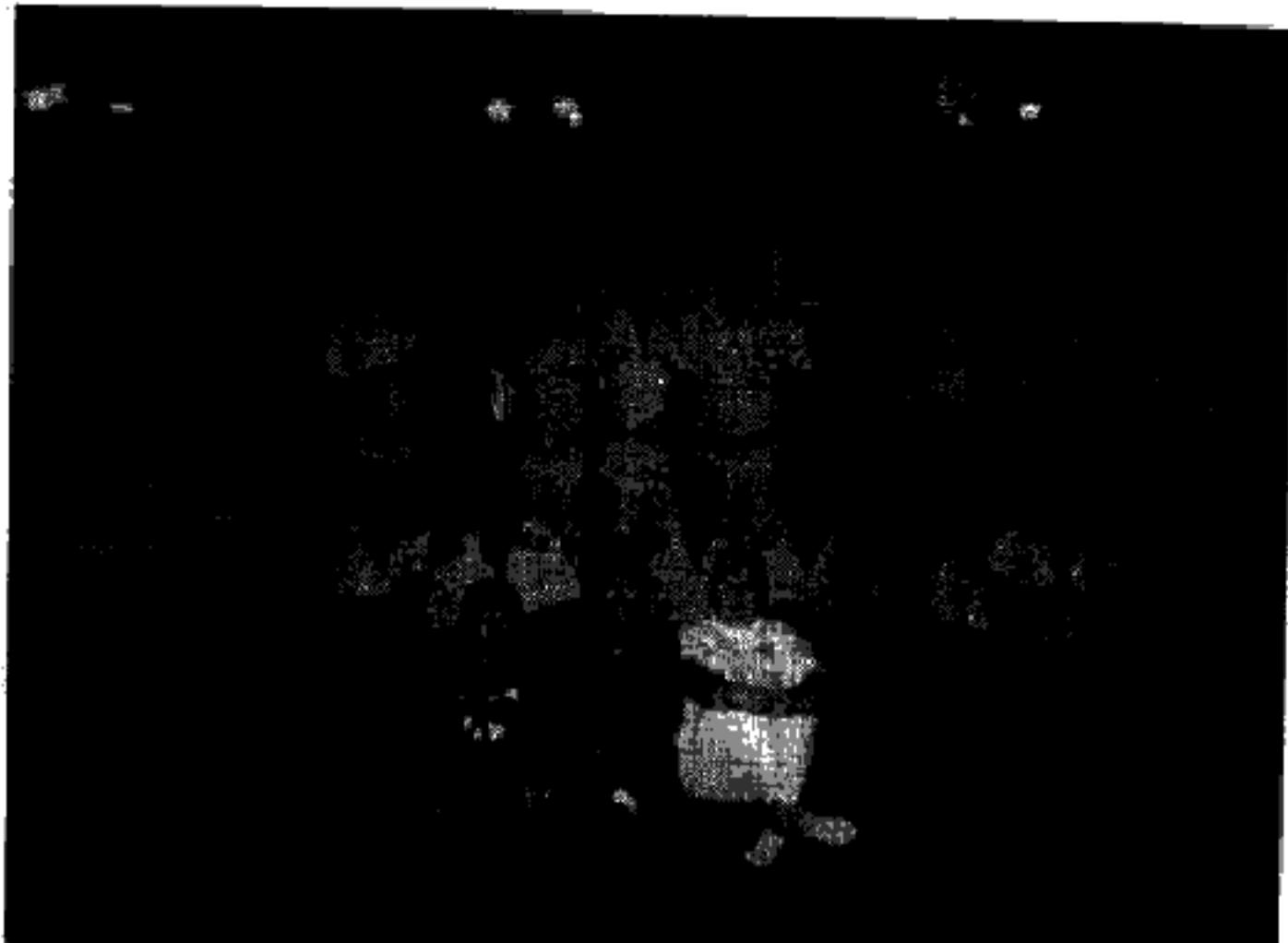
The governments of Namibia and Botswana provide much support for the black rhino's continued preservation. Unfortunately Zimbabwe receives little internal support. I am astounded by the dedication of these people in the field who appear to be battling both the poachers and their government.

The 'trip' was unforgettable. Camps were "5 star" African style. Thatched roofs, picturesque and cool, in very natural settings, with fabulous meals. The staff friendly and attentive.

We saw 17 of the world's wild black rhino population, 33 lion, uncountable elephant, giraffe, buffalo, hippo and so many other varieties it would take too long to list them, including the brilliant birds of the Okavango.

My thanks, and I know, those of Heather, Molly, Tomi, Delys, Joanna, John and Michael, go to Nicholas for his concern and attention to the successful organisation that made this trip what it was.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Etosha anti-poaching unit and safari members - sadly, one of the men, Two times, was killed in an accident last week.

## SAFARI '96

There are a few places available on this year's safari, to be lead by vice president Marion Bowers. You have a choice of 10 days in Zimbabwe or 15 days in Zimbabwe and Botswana or 19 days in Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Prices start from around \$5,000, all inclusive, and we invite you to read the enclosed itinerary.

## NAMIBIA UPDATE

News has just come to hand that after the heavy rain experienced during March and April '96, vegetation for "rhino browsing" has increased markedly and as a result several new calves have been sighted. The Save the Rhino Trust has yet to confirm actual numbers. However, one sadness emerged. A rhino was killed by lightning during severe electrical storms. They have enough of a battle surviving the evil ways of poachers let alone the rages of nature.

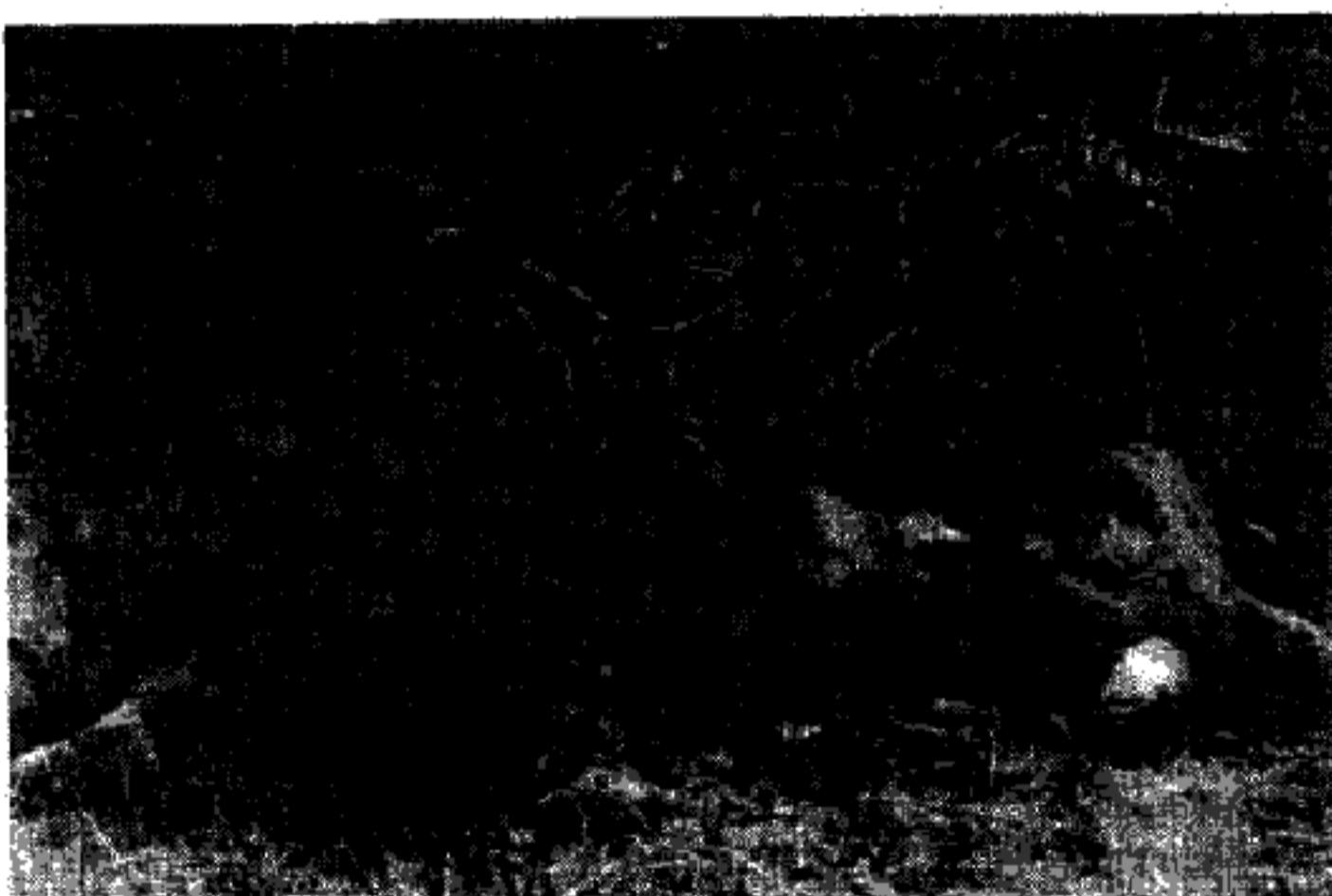
Good news too, that the Khwarib Camp Project is well and truly operational as a base for anti-poaching and rhino monitoring patrols. Congratulations to everyone working for the SRT. Several members of SAVE FOUNDATION met Blythe Loutit, the Field Director of SRT and Mike Hearn at a rhino dinner in Windhoek on the last night of our magnificent safari in September last year. We were very impressed with all they've achieved in the field and the interesting stories they told us. Hopefully, the safari patrols will benefit both the tourist trade and rhino protection in the area too. Local communities have a real chance to participate in the tourist trade and can actually see the financial benefit from the wildlife - a great deterrent to poaching.

Unfortunately, the saddest news from Namibia comes from Etosha National Park where our group spent several days last year. Six rhinos have reportedly been killed, presumably by poachers, since January this year. People have been arrested and some horns recovered but we must all work towards tougher enforcement so that these criminals are convicted and punished appropriately.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE — \$10 FOR A T-SHIRT

We appeal to all our members and readers to help expand our network of support and encourage their friends to become new recruits for the SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia. Their investment is only a mere \$35 each year and it all goes to purchasing vital equipment to help protect the black rhino from extinction. It is ranked as the most endangered major mammal on earth. Its numbers are slowly increasing and hence we all can see the result of our efforts. It should not be too hard to persuade your friends and colleagues to join our winning teams and your Executive sincerely requests that each reader makes a big effort to enrol at least one new member in the next month.

For each new member, the introductory special includes a T-shirt and a years membership, normal value \$60, for the bargain price of \$49! As an incentive to our members to help with this promotion, we offer them a SAVE FOUNDATION T-shirt for a mere \$10 (instead of \$25) for every new member they enlist.



***She's making sure you renew your membership, enrol a friend and buy tickets for Bryce Courtenay!***

## AN EVENING WITH BRYCE COURTEENAY

One of our patrons, Bryce Courtenay AM, will be our very special guest speaker on 24 July at the Hyatt Regency Perth at 7.30pm, an evening of entertainment and fund raising. Bryce is a much sought-after speaker and is regularly in demand in both Australia and internationally. Bryce has donated his services for this function and we recommend that you book early for your tickets as it is guaranteed to be one of the finest evenings you will have experienced. We will imagine that more than 400 people from around Perth will be in attendance and Bryce will be making a special speech for this occasion. He will also be visiting each table for a quick chat and autographs (for a nominal donation). Other Perth celebrities will be present on the night.

An auction of about 30 items will take place, including a safari for two to Zimbabwe, some unique Shona stone carvings, framed originals and prints, autographed memorabilia and other items of interest. We really recommend this evening to our supporters and their friends and it will definitely be one of our most memorable fund raising events. Please phone now to make your reservations.

## ZIMBABWE UPDATE

As mentioned elsewhere, the rebuilding of the rhino numbers in Zimbabwe continues to progress well, with some 35 births in the last couple of years, no deaths due to poaching and just a few mortalities from natural causes. The rhinos are now found in 6 private conservancies and 4 intensive protection zones. The conservancies are Bubiana, near West Nicholson, Save Valley, in the Lowveld, the Midlands including Iwaba and Twin Springs, near Kwekwe, Gourlay's Ranch, near Turk Mine, Chiradzi River and Imire Game Ranch, near Marondera. The I.P.Z.s are Sinamatella (Hwange National Park), Matusadona on the shores of Kariba, Matobo south of Bulawayo and Chipinge in the eastern highlands.

Within the above areas the main concentrations are in Bubiana, Save Valley, the Midlands and Sinamatella and they are all experiencing plentiful births, particularly Bubiana and Sinamatella. The total numbers have increased from the all time low of 275 to approximately 310.

When the rhino war first began in late 1984 there were an estimated 2,500 black rhinos in Zimbabwe but they have been devastated from the Zambezi Valley, Chete, Chizarira, Matusadona, and about everywhere else where they were found, but the new policy of re-locating them in the 10 strategic areas has proved to be a windfall. Many of the patrols are kitted with clothing donated by the SAVE FOUNDATION and carry on Motorola radios.

During the past year we have donated the following items:

Vehicle parts	\$5,200
Radio equipment	\$12,100
Tracking equipment	\$27,300
Boat engines	\$14,300
Personal kit (Rwanda, Zambia & Zimbabwe)	\$10,400
Freight	\$2,400
Tyres (donated)	\$5,000
Used clothing (donated)	\$3,000
General maintenance	\$18,000
Other items	\$900
	<hr/>
	\$98,600

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I would like to join your worthy cause and help to save the endangered rhinos. I understand that I will receive your quarterly newsletter and relevant material.

OR charge my  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa

Expiry date .....

Card No.

Signature: .....

FIRST NAME: .....

SURNAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... P/CODE: .....

PHONE: (H): ..... (W): .....

OCCUPATION: .....