

NEWSLETTER

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SAVE AFRICAN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAVE RETHINKS RHINO POLICY

Today, more than at any time since the inception of SAVE six years ago, we are confronted with the critical question: how CAN we save the black rhino from extinction?

Despite our close involvement in the fight, particularly in Zimbabwe, despite all the money raised by ourselves and other conservation groups, despite all the equipment sent to the anti-poaching unit of the Zimbabwe Government, despite the wholehearted efforts of conservationists around the work, current statistics tell a bleak story: in 1972 65,000 black rhino in Africa; today 2,000. The poacher's bullets have scored a 97 per cent slaughter rate. In Zimbabwe the numbers have been slashed from 2,500 to as few as 300, half of which are protected in sanctuaries and half in the wild.

(Although the figures are familiar to long-standing members, we repeat them for the benefit of new members and readers.)

Today the campaign has arrived at a crossroads, and conservation bodies, ourselves included, have to take a long, hard look at what is being done, and consider all the options currently being employed. What is the most effective way to save the precious few black rhino still surviving?

Should they be dehorned? In Zimbabwe a number of dehorned rhino have been slaughtered. Does the answer lie in private sanctuaries, where it may be easier to protect the animals? Rhinos were killed this year in a private conservancy.

Should rhinos be exported to safer countries for breeding? Unfortunately we have seen a number of deaths amongst those already exported.

Should the South East Asian connection (Taiwan, Korea, China and Thailand) be brought to account by the U.N. for marketing the horn, along with the Yemen and its preference for rhino horn dagger handles? Time and the power of long-held traditions seems to be against that solution.

There are factors for and against all the methods currently being used.

Because your committee believes this is a critical point in the campaign, four SAVE members will be visiting Zimbabwe from June 3 to 10 to take a serious look at the situation and bring back recommendations. More about that later in this issue.

At stake, don't forget, is the survival of one of Africa's "Big Five" — along with elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard. You'll agree that the Big Five can't be allowed to become the Big Four, and we at SAVE are still determined to fight on and make every effort we possibly can to save the rhino. Apathy and despondency have no place in this struggle, we must keep on spreading the word of hope, continue to make whatever financial commitments we can afford and encourage others to do the same. As SAVE supporters we have the facts that others may not have, so remember — we are acting on behalf of mankind in this war against extinction.

Now that we are down to the wire — what more can individual members do? Well, you could make a conscious effort to enrol at least five new members into SAVE, and support fund-raising on all possible occasions. Whenever you need to buy a gift for someone, think: could you give a SAVE T-shirt, one of our lovely sweat shirts, or perhaps a wildlife picture?

We're not naive enough to think that a few hundred people in Australia can save the rhino, but at least we can play a substantial role in that fight, and we can shout from the roof tops to make others stop and listen and act as well.

Your Executive is committed to the Zimbabwe rhinos, and we are determined to ensure that our efforts and the money we raise will be used to achieve optimum results. In other words, please give with confidence!

NICHOLAS S. DUNCAN
President

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you receive a membership renewal reminder with this Newsletter, will you kindly pay the \$35 subscription as soon as you can?

If you do not wish to retain your membership then please notify the Perth office so that we can amend our records.

Thank you.

RAFFLE DEADLINE

Most members and supporters received a book of raffle tickets a couple of months ago, and many of these have already been sold and returned. To these people we extend our thanks. However, there are still some books outstanding, and the date for the draw is nearly upon us.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR RAFFLE BOOKS (sold or partly sold) to your local office by June 10, so that they can be sent to Sydney for the draw on June 16.

The fabulous first prize is a trip for two to Africa, courtesy of Air Zimbabwe, and includes two days accommodation at Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls. There are four other worthwhile prizes: a Rhino car alarm, an Olympus camera, a photography course, and a Zimbabwe ironwood carving.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of Save African Endangered Wildlife Foundation (Australian Branch) to be held at the Royal King's Park Tennis Club (Lower Pavilion) at 7.30pm on Tuesday, June 29, 1993.

Business: 1. Acceptance of the Minutes from the Fifth Annual General Meeting held on June 8, 1992. 2. President's Report. 3. Treasurer's Report. 4. Election of Committee. 5. Any Other Business.

Please Note: Nomination forms for positions on the Executive, together with proxy forms, are available from the SAVE office in Perth. Under the Constitution, nominations will close at 7.30pm on Thursday, 24th June, 1993.

GIFT IDEAS

Don't forget our fabulous range of high quality T-shirts, in four designs, the latest similar to the official SAVE logo, but with a rhino instead of an elephant. Most popular is the design with "Extinction is Forever" below the rhino illustration on the front page of this newsletter.

They are all available at the Perth office at \$25, including postage and packing and you can pay by credit card, cheque or cash.

Now that winter is here, you may wish to buy our sweat shirts in either the "Wanted Alive" or SAVE style, in a range of

colours — at \$30 if bought from the office, or an extra \$5 by mail order.

Newer members may not know that we have a set of 10 black and white sketches of African animals: at \$6 each these are fantastic value. And we still have a few David Shepherd pictures of lion, rhino, tiger and elephant at \$15 each.

Always available are stone carvings from Zimbabwe, the most popular being the seated hippo at approximately \$20 each. They make delightful ornaments or paper weights.

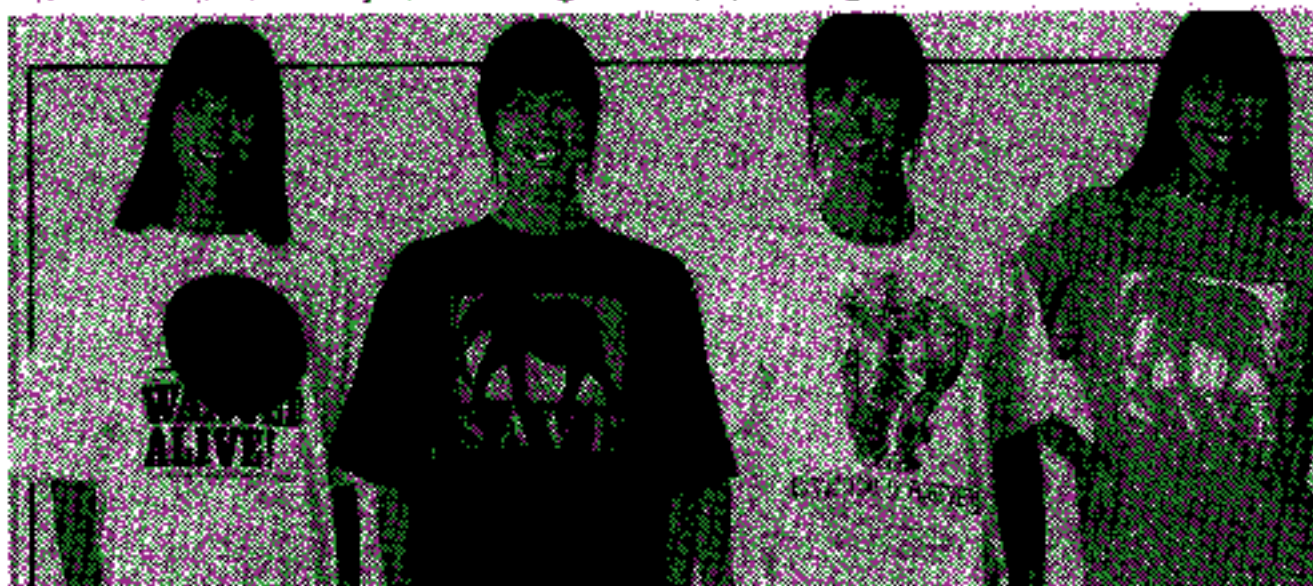


Photo courtesy of Woman's Day

QUEENSLAND NEWS

SAVE in Queensland have been quietly but steadily raising awareness of the situation in Africa. Carol Ryan had an article published in the Queensland Conservation Council newsletter and Pat Wetton had an article published in the Africa Club newsletter.

Membership is rather low at present so it is hoped these articles will generate some interest. Social evenings with slides on African wildlife are planned, including one to the Queensland Wildlife Society.

T-shirt, polo shirt and sweat shirt sales are providing a very steady revenue. "African Escape" in Surfers Paradise does a

roaring trade with our shirts, particularly the khaki/olive ones and the teenagers love the tie-dyed T-shirts. People are getting asked where they bought their shirts!

A small band of volunteers manned a stand at the 1993 Holiday Ideas show, in Brisbane. We raised a grand total of \$1003, from sales and donations and sold \$640 worth of raffle tickets for our colleagues in New South Wales.

Many more raffle books are still due back in, so the total should be considerably more. The show is a good venue and a lot of interest was shown in SAVE and its efforts.

FACT FINDING MISSION TO ZIMBABWE

During the past three months, your Executive has been closely monitoring the deteriorating rhino situation in Zimbabwe and has become increasingly alarmed by the continuing slaughter in a number of national parks.

At the same time we appreciate that the poaching hierarchy is driven by the powerful motive of greed, while National Parks are hopelessly underpaid, under-equipped and consequently suffering from low morale.

In addition to Zimbabwe's national parks, rhino are also held in a number of private conservancies in Zimbabwe, some of which operate with adequate funding, and others without. Your Executive believes it would be a valuable exercise to assess the current position, not only within National Parks but in these private conservancies.

With this in mind, the Executive recently passed a motion authorising three Executive members (President Nicholas Duncan, Secretary Cheryl Davenport, Executive member Margaret Prior) and independent member Angus Horwood to visit Zimbabwe to study the situation in depth. The cost of the visit will be \$3000, and we believe this is a wise investment which will enable us to ensure that future funds are used to maximum effect. A full report of the delegation's findings will be available at the AGM on Tuesday 29 June, and we urge members to attend and join in the vital discussion that will take place.

OVER \$4000 RAISED AT HOMES EXHIBITION

Once again SAVE was able to use the Perth Ideal Homes Exhibition at Burswood Superdome as a venue to promote our ideals and raise funds through raffle tickets, African stone and wooden carvings, T-shirts, animal prints and the ever-popular David Shepherd pictures.

The Exhibition ran over two weekends in February and March and takings topped the \$4,000 mark, thanks to enthusiastic SAVE members who came from all directions and professions sell our products and message to the public.

The stand presented a striking display which attracted many visitors, and we have once again to thank Arthur and Margaret Prior of Furniture Hire and Sales for donating the walls and equipment.

To the following list of terrific people who gave their time and effort, we extend our sincere and grateful thanks: Adele and David Begovich, John Coombes, Deirdre Musson, Maureen de la Harpe, Kathy Reindler, Gaby and Dennis Backshall, Helen Trowell, Diana Atkinson, Eva and Mike Palmer, Julie Bain, Steven Sharp, Nola Criddle and sister, Kelly and Maureen McFarlane, Barbara Anthony, Wyn Wyman, Anne Calway, Tim Scarrot, Trudy Stock, Julie and Mike Stout, Anne Bluntish and friends, Terri Beckett, Gwen Phillips, Tony and Susan Di Francesco, Marion Bowers, Margaret Prior, Cheryl Davenport, Guy Tristram and lastly, a person not often mentioned but always playing a crucial role, Nicholas Duncan.



Pat Wetton (right) at the Travel Fair

ZIMBABWE UPATE

NATIONAL PARKS SHAKE-UP

The structure and management of the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management are likely to undergo radical changes in the future, changes which it is hoped will place the organisation higher on the Zimbabwe Treasury's priority budget: at present only about eight per cent of revenue produced by Zimbabwe's wildlife is returned for use in its management — a deplorable statistic.

Committed people within the department, together with the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism, are examining ways in which a new system can be established to ensure that National Parks receives its fair share of the revenue it generates. This would enable the Department to operate more effectively.

Parks funding crisis

In March this year National Parks ran out of vital funds, including the subsistence wages paid to rangers on patrol, and had to cancel critical fieldwork. Thankfully, we are able to report that US AID has made a major contribution towards this programme, and patrols are now back in the field.

Ivory poaching up

Hundreds of elephant have been shot by poachers over the last two years, a phenomenon unknown in Zimbabwe before 1990. Is this increase related to the fact that rhino are now more scarce, or is there now a black market in ivory? Because trade in elephant products has been banned since 1989 (and in rhino horn since 1977).

Poaching in private sanctuaries

The fact that five rhino were killed earlier this year in private sanctuaries raises the question of how to prevent this slaughter. SAVE believes that the Zimbabwe Government should approve a military approach (similar to that taken by National Parks' anti-poaching patrols operating in the wild), and allow private game scouts to shoot poachers if necessary.



Yet more assistance from our major sponsor — Qantas.

MP CONVICTED OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF RHINO HORNS

Zengeza Member of Parliament, Benjamin Moyo, and six others were convicted on Thursday, February 11, 1993 of unlawful possession of two rhino horns, weighing two kilograms and with a street value of \$5000, and received a five-year jail term.

In his defence, Moyo testified "I did not give due regard to the provisions of the law. It was as if I was in a state of forgetfulness."

Extract — *The Herald*,
Thursday, 11th February, 1993

POACHERS STILL KILLING DEHORNE RHINOS

The rhino dehorning exercise carried out by the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management has failed to discourage poachers from killing the animals, a cabinet minister has said.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Dr Herbert Murerwa, said in an interview that poachers continued to kill the rhino even though they had been dehorned.

"Our rhino dehorning exercise was an attempt to discourage the poaching but this has not helped much as the dehorned rhino have continued to be killed.

"We hope, however, that once the poachers know that all the rhinos have been dehorned, they will stop killing them," he said.

Dr Murerwa said the retrenchment of 251 scouts had an adverse effect on the Department of National Park's anti-poaching capability. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism was currently in consultation with the Public Service Commission to strengthen the anti-poaching units.

Financial Gazette, May 13th, 1993

WESTERN PLAINS UPDATE

As many people in Australia will have learned through the media, eight rhinos were transported to Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, New South Wales, at the beginning of February. As reported in our previous edition, the only bull in the group died on his first day on Australian soil. Apparently under tremendous stress, he made repeated head butts on the metal surrounding his pen, and died after damage to his breathing passages.

In late April, one of the remaining seven cows died from an illness that seems to affect rhinos after translocation — a fatal

blood disorder known as haemolytic anaemia.

Arrangements are under way for a breeding bull from the USA to join the six remaining cows, and we wish this project every success.

A contribution of over \$2 million from the Australian Women's Weekly on behalf of the International Black Rhino Foundation is funding the Australian breeding programme. It's hoped that within 10 years the herd will increase from seven to 40 and that black rhinos can then be successfully repatriated back into Zimbabwe.

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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. My cheque for \$25, or more if I wish, is enclosed.

OR Charge my ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa. Expiry Date:

Card Number

Signature:

FIRST NAME: SURNAME:

ADDRESS:

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EXTRACTS FROM THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Nicholas

A long overdue, but nonetheless very sincere thank you from all the chaps in Damaraland for the wonderful donation of boots, sleeping bags, cooksets and water bottles sent by SAVE through the Namibia Nature Foundation last year.

These included 12 sleeping bags, 10 waterbottles, 12 cooksets (which are considered a great luxury) and assorted pairs of boots. The boots remaining will be held in stock for re-issue (a sort of future insurance policy). The men liked the boots very much as their steel toes were considered excellent for the rocky ground over which they need to move.

Please could you thank all the members involved for their contribution and assure them that the items are being used to the best advantage.

We receive your newsletter regularly and see that things are still going strong with SAVE Australia. The situation in Zimbabwe has got us all on our toes and we are desperately trying to get our operations as efficient as possible. Motorola is donating us several top of the range mobile radios as well as hand-helds, an invaluable contribution worth many thousands of rand and worth even more to the people in the field, who up till now have had to walk up to three days to summon help if there is a problem.

Our sincere thanks once again. Greetings to our rhino friends in Australia.

Best wishes

Sharon Montgomery
**SAVE THE RHINO TRUST FUND,
NAMIBIA**
1 April, 1993

Jen Dollin, Treasurer
SAVE, NSW Branch
3rd May, 1993

Dear Jen

We finally managed to clear all the equipment from SAVE for the Veterinary Unit, after three weeks and only 12 syringes left (in total) to use on rhinos! The shipment arrived intact and has already been put to good use.

We are impressed by the quality of the syringes and needles and the other items. The computer has already been used for several rhino related tasks and will be indispensable to us. The generator will make all the difference to our ability to operate remotely in the bush, we will be able to run the computer, charge radios, use the fridge and microscope, etc. The fridge is very impressive and much more than we expected (especially the design and compactness which will be perfect for rough bush work). We have already had a frame made for the fridge so that it can travel safely in our Land Rovers.

Please thank Richard Moras for his note and his efforts on our behalf. Of

course, our thanks extend to you and all the SAVE team! We consider you all very special.

There are a few items from the last shipment which we would consider "another" as invaluable for our work. Firstly, the fridge is so impressive and rugged, another would help. Dr Atkinson and I are not always together on operations and a second fridge would assist us with biological sample and drug storage. Secondly, the GP300 radios are great but we really could do with one or two more with six to eight channels. We are doing work on the Rhino Conservancies and we need to put the Conservancy frequencies in the hand-held radios, plus the frequency for Matobo National Park and the main Parks frequency. The two GP300s you sent will be invaluable for work in the north of Zimbabwe. Communications are always the major constraint to successful operations.

Your support has been essential and makes the difference between operating without those essential items that make or break an operation (both research and management components), and the right equipment that allows a high degree of professionalism to prevail. That makes a difference, especially with regard to animal welfare.

Kind regards

Michael D. Kock
Mark W. Atkinson
Veterinary Unit on Behalf of the Director
NATIONAL PARKS, ZIMBABWE

RE: DONATED LANDCRUISER FOR RIFA SECTION

Dear Friends

On Monday, 25th January, 1993 the SAVE landcruiser G. NP 283 was officially handed over to me at the Rifa Education Camp.

This vehicle will be permanently stationed at Nyamuomba in the Rifa section carrying out anti-poaching duties.

This letter serves as a mere token of our extreme appreciation and gratitude for this generous gift and the effort which your members have made to assist in the preservation of Zimbabwe's wildlife.

I would like to assure you that the staff at Nyamuomba will make every possible effort to look after and maintain this vehicle properly, and to put it to full use for anti-poaching duties.

Your generous donation is very opportune and has boosted morale tremendously at a time when we are being assaulted by bad news on all other fronts.

I look forward to being able to express our sincere appreciation to your representatives in person in the near future.

Thank you again

Charles Magner
RANGER, I/C, RIFA
28 January, 1993

OUT OF ORDER

March 19 was the date for another SAVE fund raising evening at the Regal Theatre, Subiaco.

The show, "Out Of Order", was hilarious, with well known comedian Ronnie Corbet and Donald Sinden playing the lead roles, and laughter every minute of the show was a result.

Meeting the stars of the show over champagne and hor-d'oeuvres was a continuation of the fun, and finally Nicholas Duncan gave a brief talk about the black rhino plight before leading the Auction.

Ronnie Corbet and Donald Sinden were presented with SAVE T-shirts with which they were delighted, but they also took part in spirited bidding, successfully carrying away African items.

Nicholas conducted a happy auction with bidding interspersed with plenty of laughter, with a final result of approximately \$2000 raised for SAVE.

These fund raising evenings are great enjoyment and value — whilst also helping our friend the black rhino. When you are aware of the next function, please do not hesitate... get some friends together and come along for a rewarding evening.

VICTORIAN NEWS

The SAVE (Victoria) AGM will be held on June 8, 7.30pm, at 15 Dendy Street, Brighton. The main agenda item is a major fundraising event — the rhino ball — for August/September. Assistance in organising this event would be appreciated, so please come along to the meeting. All are welcome.

The Victorian office has supplies of T-shirts, hats and stickers, etc. Please telephone for a catalogue or to place an order. As always, help is needed at Camberwell Sunday Market. Also, if members live near another market and would be willing to hold a stall selling T-shirts, etc, please let me know.

Recently, I sent a request to all members to assist with the sale of the "Trip To Africa" raffle tickets. I still have some unsold books, so if you can sell some before June 11, please call me. Perhaps you could spend a few hours at your local shopping centre selling tickets to help make the raffle a big success.

Ongoing thanks to Werribee Park Zoo for keeping our perspex rhino — Rex — on a regular basis. Staff at Werribee have enthusiastically supported SAVE fundraising. Thanks to Balwyn Rotary Club for support at Camberwell Market, to Marilyn MacDonald for typing assistance and to Shirley and Kjell Andersson for use of their home for meetings.

Susan Pennicuik
SAVE (Victoria)