

NEWSLETTER

32

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SAVE AFRICAN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My apologies for the long delay since the last newsletter, but pressures in the office prevented me from publishing one sooner. The last edition was put together by Maureen de la Harpe, from a number of articles from various publications, and we thank her very much for her efforts in my absence overseas. Maureen is from Zimbabwe and is keen to support our fight to save the country's endangered wildlife.

\$300,000 raised and spent

It is with pride that SAVE is able to announce that \$300,000 has now been raised, all of which has been spent on our equipment for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management in Zimbabwe.

For the benefit of readers, we supply only items specifically requested by National Parks Director Dr Willie Nduku, or his Chief Warden Glenn Tatham; and this equipment is monitored and serviced in the field by Chief Mechanic Paul Oleszczuk.

What makes SAVE different from many other non-profit groups is that because we are a purely voluntary foundation, and all basic expenses (administration, travel, communications) are donated by a private company, all profits from money raised are spent on equipment needed for anti-poaching activities.

A supreme effort needed

In 1972 there were 65,000 black rhino on the African continent, today there are less than 2,800 but although the decimation continues throughout Africa the rate has now slowed. Because the last viable

herd is living in Zimbabwe, SAVE is directing its efforts towards that country.

Since the first rhino deaths in 1984 over 1,000 rhino have been slaughtered in this country, including 100 during 1991. Due to the recession and a general tightening of belts, National Parks are finding it increasingly difficult to provide adequate protection to the remaining animals. Although many areas desperately need increased patrols, the reduced Parks budget will not spread far enough. As a result, in Matusadona National Park, 60% of what was once a large concentration of rhino, has been wiped out over the past two years — and still no extra support has been provided.

To increase the deterrent factor, legislation protecting rhino has been amended four times since 1984, with the current mandatory prison sentence standing at five to 15 years.

During the seven-year war, a total of 346 rhino have been captured and relocated to new sanctuaries mainly in the Midlands and in Hwange National Park. The cost of protecting these animals has been paid in human lives, by a number of rangers, as well as 145 poachers.

If the current rate of slaughter continues, the survival of the black rhino is doubtful. To quote from the Worldwide Fund for Nature Campaign Report, April 1989: "The battle to save the rhino needs one last supreme effort". Let's hope SAVE can be part of this supreme effort — the fight for the rhino is symbolic of the fight to save the entire environment, and we hope all members, friends and work colleagues will join us in working even harder to raise funds. We're not going to be beaten in this struggle.

Renewals

Due to the vast amount of work in the SAVE office, and a lack of volunteer help, it has been nearly six months since we sent out renewal notices to members. We strongly urge you to continue your valued support in the most generous way you can afford. Please be assured that all funds are wisely and responsibly spent.

Nicholas Duncan
PRESIDENT

WANTED — RHINO MONEY BOX MINDERS

For the past 18 months, the large rhino money box, strategically positioned in hotel foyers, shopping centres and at the Perth Show, has been a useful source of income for SAVE, raising as much as \$15,000 through donations.

We now have five more — fine pieces of art made of clear acrylic and measuring about one metre by 0.75 metre — and we would like to see them distributed as widely as possible across the country. We already have one in Melbourne, and would like to station a couple in Sydney, Adelaide or Brisbane, but we need someone in those cities to co-ordinate their movements. The money boxes are light and will fit on the back seat of any car, and the front seat of most. If you live in either Sydney, Brisbane or Adelaide and would be prepared to take on this relatively simple commitment, please contact the address or phone number on the front of this newsletter (except for Adelaide readers who should contact Perth direct).

UPDATE FROM MELBOURNE

Events have been moving at a steady pace in Melbourne since the first SAVE meeting in July 1991. We now have 23 members, and have raised over \$2,000.

Our regular stall at the Camberwell market has continued to be our major fundraiser with the sale of T-shirts, windcheaters, stickers and Zimbabwean handicrafts.

Two SAVE dinners in August and December were successful with members getting to know each other and raising some funds. Special guest speaker at the December function was Mr Laurie Levy, who is well known in Victoria for his campaigns opposing the annual duck shooting season. He inspired us all with his advice on successful campaigning. We were pleased also to welcome Richard and Vanessa Naisbitt, who had just arrived from Zimbabwe. Richard has spent several years working with wildlife, including rhino, in Zimbabwe and is keen to assist us while he is living in Melbourne.

SAVE Victoria is now also in possession of a large perspex rhino, which has been out and about in shopping centres and also at Werribee Park Zoo. Werribee Park, which is a free range zoo, has two white rhino, so it seemed a most appropriate location and he was well received by zoo visitors. We extend our thanks to the Director, Ms Gaye Hamilton and zoo staff for their enthusiastic support. "Rex", as they dubbed our rhino, is returning for Werribee Park Zoo's Africa week from March 2 to 6.

Our thanks also go to Friends of the Zoo, the publication of Victoria's three zoos, for including an information sheet about SAVE in the September magazine. This has generated wider awareness of SAVE and has been the source of new membership.

Recently, I gave a radio interview with Catherine Rimmer of 3CR Melbourne, which also resulted in telephone calls from interested listeners. Thanks 3CR.

Our plans for 1992 include a rock concert in the first half of the year, and a ball in the second half. We will continue to hold a stall at Camberwell market, and other locations around Melbourne. We still need to increase membership and support and can be contacted via the address and telephone number in this newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to extend my thanks to David, Shirley, Kjell, Margaret, Anne, Lynn, Pat, Marilyn, Warwick, Linda, Wayrie, Sue, Suzanne and Sandra for their assistance over the past six months. I look forward to 1992.

Susan Pennicuik, Melbourne



Gaye, Sue and Rex at Werribee Park Zoo

AUTOGRAPHED T-SHIRT RAFFLE

During the past year we have been collecting a variety of autographs of various visiting celebrities on SAVE or Wanted Alive T-shirts.

We now have fifteen collectors' items, signed by such luminaries as Steffi Graf and Boris Becker (a joint effort), Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl, Andre Agassi and four others, John McEnroe, the rock group INXS, Cliff Richard, Tom Jones, John Farnham, Bryan Adams, Ian Baker-Finch and 12 leading golfers, the Australian Cricket Team, David Gower, the English Cricket Team, New Kids on the Block and Dire Straits.

The value of these souvenirs lies in the fact that, as the celebrities in question made quite clear, they are very selective and do not make a practice of signing every T-shirt offered to them. They agreed to sign these as they were all very keen

to support the work of SAVE. The shirt signed by both Steffi and Boris is a particularly valuable item of memorabilia.

To give everyone a chance to win one of these prized souvenirs, rather than auctioning them off (possibly for as much as \$500 each), we are conducting a raffle with \$1 tickets, and all members will be receiving a book. Please sell as many tickets, and books, as you can; it shouldn't be too hard at a \$1 a ticket. Enlist the help of friends and work colleagues, and if you have children, the INXS and New Kids on the Block T-shirts as well as those signed by sporting personalities, should be a major attraction.

The winners will have the chance to select the shirt of their choice, with the winner having first choice, second place having second choice, and so on.

WE NEED YOUR OLD CLOTHING

While addressing the SAVE contingent last year, Glenn Tatham mentioned that his rangers and scouts, who do an enormous amount of hard work in exhausting conditions, would appreciate any extra support for themselves, their wives or their children — support that would confirm the value of their work.

If you or your friends have any old clothing, please contact our office in Perth so that we can make arrangements for its transport to Harare. It will be welcome whatever the condition, and will certainly boost the morale of ranger families with the knowledge that they are in the thoughts of people thousands of miles away.

This is an easy way for all members to contribute to our work in Zimbabwe — so why not go through your cupboards tonight and give us a call tomorrow. Thank you.

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SAFARI '92

Based on the success of last year's SAVE safari, we are now planning another for this October. We have been kindly invited by the Government of Namibia to visit their rhino sanctuaries and we shall also spend time in the Okavanga Delta, Victoria Falls and the Zambezi Valley, finishing the trip with a few days in Harare.

Once again, we shall meet all the interesting people involved in the Rhino War and this trip is highly recommended to our members.

For more details on this exclusive, luxury safari, please contact Nicholas Duncan on 444-6550.

RHINO CONSERVATION IN NAMIBIA

Namibia, formerly South West Africa, received its independence from South Africa two years ago. It has been a well kept secret until now but economics is driving it to become a desired tourist destination. Namibia is basically mountainous desert country with only two permanent rivers situated on the northern and southern borders. Animals within its borders have had to adapt to a greater or lesser degree to the uniqueness of this country. This is the home of the desert elephants, giraffe and rhinos, the Skeleton Coast, Fish River Canyon and unique prehistoric plant forms. The scenery is one of grandiose splendour — an artist / photographer's delight.

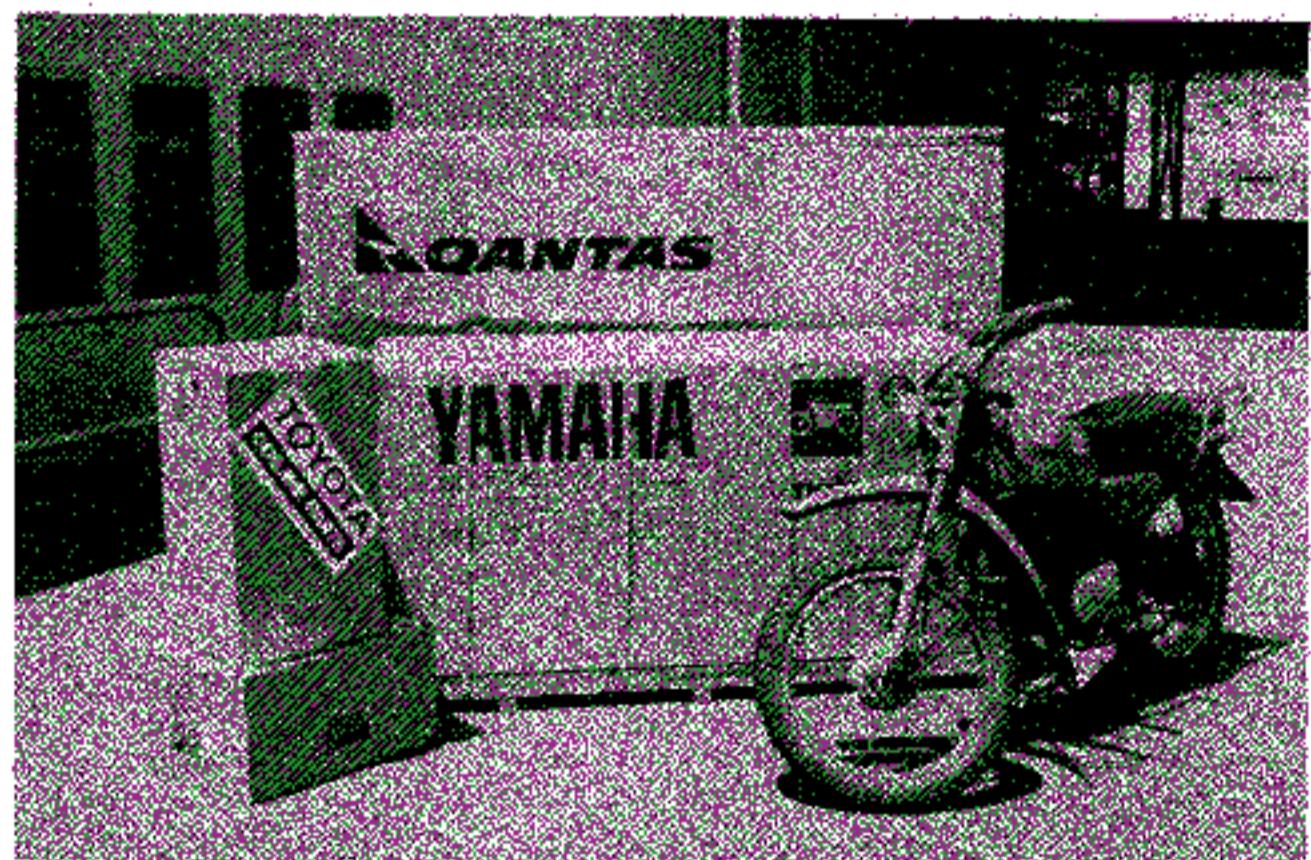
There are three main areas for rhinos whose numbers here are on the increase — Waterberg Plateau National Park, Etosha National Park and the special desert areas of Kaokoland and Damaraland. These three areas are subject to isolated cases of poaching for rhino horn sufficient to cause conservationists in Damaraland / Kaokoland to undertake the innovative approach of dehorning. To date, as far as one can tell, this had had a measure of success. SAVE has supported Namibia in its anti-poaching efforts on a small scale up to present with saddles and other small items — however, due to the Government structure of National Parks, further support is required.

With the infrastructure at present, the assistance rendered by SAVE has been cared for and utilised to its fullest and is worthy of future aid. The Namibian Government are very enthusiastic to help SAVE in our fund raising efforts and have shown this very positively — this type of co-operative effort to fundraising is vital for SAVE to continue its good work. We thank Namibia and look forward to combined endeavours to save the black rhino.

Jo Lindo, Perth



SAVE saddles with the anti-poaching unit, Etosha



More bikes and parts courtesy of Qantas

WESTPAC TRAVEL SAFARIS TO AFRICA

Just over a year ago, SAVE was approached by Gordons Tours International who, in their capacity as wholesalers for Westpac Travel, were interested in running a safari to Zimbabwe, Botswana and Kenya. The idea was for participants to meet Glenn Tatham and his wardens and gain firsthand knowledge of anti-poaching problems. In return, the tour operators would donate much-needed equipment to the National Parks Departments of Zimbabwe and Kenya, the latter through the East African Wildlife Society.

The idea was so popular that Susan Stenson of Westpac Travel in Double Bay organised two tours, one in September and one in November, both escorted by Susan Bernasconi, Treasurer of SAVE in New South Wales.

As a result, two Yamaha motorbikes and an Evinrude outboard motor have been donated to National Parks in Zimbabwe, where they are in safe hands and being put to constructive use.

To Susan Stenson and the directors of Westpac Travel, our thanks for your tremendous support — we hope this venture is the first of many.

FOR SALE

A whole new range of our super coloured SAVE T-shirts arrived in the office on February 12 and are awaiting new owners. They look absolutely stunning, and are available in seven colours and all sizes, for only \$22.00.

Perhaps you could set yourself a goal to sell some of these, just like Dee Musser who achieved her target with sales totalling \$1400. Also, Tim Scarrott has been very successful over the years. They certainly are popular T-shirts.

We also have other interesting items — black and white sketches (\$7.00), coloured photos and prints (\$16.00), silver bracelets (\$40.00) and a range of stone carvings (from \$22.00).

Our office is at 229 Oxford Street, Leederville and is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

ON SAFARI WITH DAVID GOWER

On Tuesday 15 October, seven SAVE supporters from Australia and ten from England arrived, via QANTAS and British Airways respectively, at Harare Airport. The selector had opted for a tour party of 16, but an extra all-rounder was included at the last minute! Our areas of common ground were a desire to see Africa's wildlife; an admiration for David Gower, a keen interest to look "behind the scenes" in the fight to save the rhino, and the availability of a spare \$7,900!

Eighteen days later, when we regrouped at the Airport for our final farewells, everyone agreed that the safari had exceeded all expectations and had engraved deep and moving experiences into our memories.

Within a few hours of arrival we were being addressed by Glenn Tatham, Chief Warden of Zimbabwe, in the new National Park Headquarters. This was a great way to begin the safari as no one is better equipped than Glenn to present the grim background to the tragedy of Africa's dwindling rhino population.

We spent our first night on African soil at Landela Lodge, a beautiful country guesthouse, just outside Harare, set in a delightful garden of jacarandas and bougainvillea, and close to its own private game park; here we saw sable and kudu, and watched the hand-feeding of Tutu, a young bull elephant.



Extinction is forever — but don't tell Tutu.

Chinzombo

It was an early start next day to catch three consecutive flights into the Luangwa Valley in Zambia where we were met by Babette Alfieri (co-founder of SAVE, USA) and Phil Berry, who jointly manage Chinzombo Safari Camp on the banks of the Luangwa River. We spent four delightful days viewing a variety of game, including large families of elephant and (a highlight of the visit) watching a leopard on its kill at night.

We were delighted to meet Norman Carr from neighbouring Kapani Camp who, many years ago, raised two orphan lion cubs and released them into the wild. Also, we heard of the efforts made by the local community to manage and sustain their wildlife in an economically viable way.



On Safari — Lilian, Ray, Jane, Marion, David and Colleen.

The Falls

From Chinzombo we flew via Lusaka to Livingstone on the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls. It was the end of a long dry season and the Falls were virtually non-existent on this side of the Zambezi but, as we discovered next day, in full splendour on the Zimbabwean side.

In the evening a performance of African music provided a perfect background for the birthday celebrations of Carrie Zetter from Surrey, highlighted by the arrival of mystery flowers and birthday cake — from her two dogs, she claims!

The following day provided a high point in excitement for seven brave adventurers who went white-water rafting through the gorges and rapids of the Zambezi just below the Falls — a memorable experience, captured on video and climaxing with the entire crew submerged in white water. The hardest bit was the final climb up out of the gorge, equivalent to ascending a 70-storey building.

The rest of the group explored the small township of Victoria Falls, enjoyed the relaxing facilities of the celebrated Falls Hotel and experienced the magnificent "flight of angels", an aerial flip providing a fabulous view of the Falls, the gorges downstream and the surrounding tropical rainforest.

Okavango

We were fortunate enough to be supplied with complimentary transport, by the

Elephant Hills Hotel courtesy bus, to the Botswana border, where we boarded two private planes to fly to the airstrip in the Okavango Delta. To Elephant Hills General Manager Peter Kirchner, we send special thanks for saving us an expensive trip. We are sorry your bus was nearly impounded by Botswana Customs!



Like mother, like son.

Our three days in Okavango were in many ways the high point of the trip, simply because of the beauty and tranquility of this camp. Provided with a makoro (dugout canoe) and a boatman-cum-guide for each two people, we were at leisure to wander off and do our own thing. Although the game viewing was not particularly spectacular, the birdlife was prolific and our camp hosts were charming, taking a great interest in our group and endless trouble to make sure we were happy.

Delta Camp airstrip was the chosen venue for the "Clash of the Ashes" between two teams of traditional cricketing rivals. A deck chair was the wicket and a palm branch the cricket bat, but we did have a real tennis ball. The Ashes were the left-overs from the previous night's campfire and were stored in a small Bell's whisky bottle.

England was represented by David Gower, Greig MacPherson (from London), Don Gamble (from Dundee) and Andrew from (Delta Camp). Their opponents, skippered by Nicholas Duncan, included John Markham and Arthur Prior from Perth and Ray Carter from Tennant Creek.



Discussing the evening's play.

Extra fielders were recruited, especially Thorunn Nash (Hampshire), Christina Mellenfield (London), Carrie Zetter and Jane Hutchison (both from Surrey), all of whom seemed to miss the ball when England were batting and rapidly disappeared when it was the Aussie's turn!

The official photographers were Robyn Browne (Melbourne) and Lilian Rennie (Dundee), whilst Marion Bowers (Perth) videoed the match with commentators Colleen MacMahon (Berkshire) and Margaret Dunford (Hampshire). Margaret Prior (Perth) sat back and enjoyed all the entertainment, passing on encouragement where necessary.

It was a two-day match over two evenings and at the end of the first night's play Australia had a nine-run lead. This was wiped out by Don the following day and after some big hitting by Greig, some classic stroke-making by David and some out-of-practice hitting by Andrew, the Aussies were left with 42 to make in fading light on a crumbling wicket, with a slow outfield (the grass was about two feet tall) John Markham, whose best cricketing days are clearly behind him, showed he had lost one of his skill, and steered Australia to victory, winning the Man of the Match award — the bat autographed in white tipex by David!



A proud John with David.

Kariba

Lake Kariba was our next destination, reached by two more flights and a speed-boat connection to Fothergill Island. Here we met Andy Searle who has been Warden of Matusadona National Park for the past few years. When the previous SAVE safari visited in 1988, and spotted four black rhino during a walk, we realised how easy it would be for poachers to cross the lake, kill the animals and disappear undetected. The slaughter began in April the following year, and Andy estimates that he has lost 150 out of 250 rhino. During this time the Government has been unable to supply Andy with any further equipment or men — he still has the same nine scouts patrolling vast areas on foot as they do not have a vehicle between them!

In view of this scandalous situation, one

has to question the intentions of the Department of National Parks towards rhino in this area. The safari group, at least, responded instantly to Andy's plight and on Thursday 30 January two brand new Yamaha motorbikes were kindly flown by Qantas to Harare, destined for Matusadona.

We hoped to find some black rhinos on the shores of Lake Kariba, but despite many hours spent searching we were unsuccessful. We did, however, see beautiful sunsets, plenty of hippo, enormous herds of buffalo and countless elephants with calves. Whilst at Fothergill we also celebrated Margaret Prior's birthday, an occasion I know she will remember for years to come.

Imire

Nearing the end of our 18-day safari, we returned to Harare for three days at Melkies Hotel. We enjoyed a lovely interlude at Imire Game Ranch, a private game reserve some 100 kilometres from Harare, owned by Norman Travers and famous for its seven hand-reared orphan rhinos, whose mothers were shot by poachers when the babies were less than a month old.



Drink a gallon of milk a day.

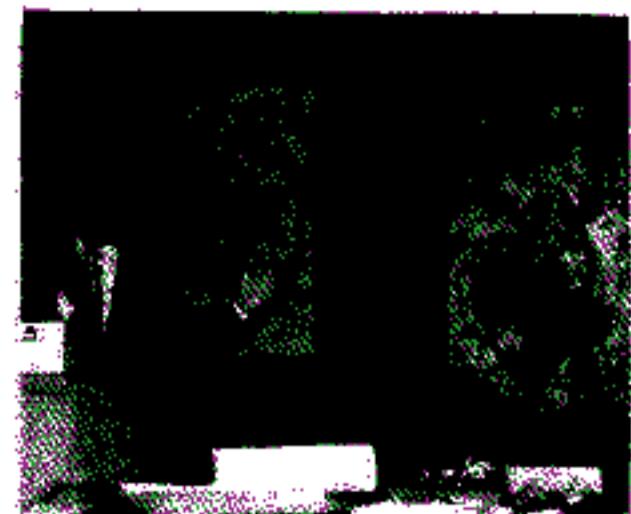
They are now five years old and the size of large cattle. We watched David Gower feed them with a gallon can of milk and then took turns giving them handfuls of special nutritious nuts — a unique experience.

The rhino orphans are all privately sponsored by Zimbabwe corporations and we would recommend a day visit to Imire to anyone visiting Zimbabwe.

Farewell Dinner

The climax of the tour was the Rhino Dinner at Harare's Monomatapa Hotel, attended by 180 guests, and organised by Allan Riddell and Kathy Keen from the ZimSuns group and Brian and Kevin Murphy from African Sports Tours. After dinner Nicholas Duncan explained the work of SAVE in Zimbabwe and paid particular thanks for local support.

Affretair have been most generous with complimentary air freight; BP sponsored the mobile workshop last year; Qantas donated air freight; the Australian High Commission provided three motorbikes; ZimSuns financed the CHOGM hand-out and the Lions Club of Umfuli, through Len and Mary Burrows, planned the dinner.



One last big effort is needed.

Guest speakers Tim Gleeson and David Gower entertained the guests with a flow of anecdotes presented with their renowned wit and humour and, after a slow start, the auction warmed up and made the magnificent sum of Z\$53,000, (special thanks to auctioneer Trevor Proctor). Such was the mood of the evening that, towards its close, an anonymous lady approached Glenn Tatham and donated her Landrover.

On our last day we wore the "team uniform" (the colourful SAVE T-shirt) to a lunchtime barbecue hosted by Delta Corporation, the holding company for Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, courtesy of the Managing Director Pat Rooney. Thank you, Pat, for your kind hospitality.

After the rest of the group had flown home, David and Nicholas stayed on for another week of fund-raising in Bulawayo, Trelewney (home of Graeme Hick) and Johannesburg, raising a further Z\$100,000, mainly through the generosity of the Bulawayo business community. This money has been put into the David Gower Black Rhino Fund monitored by a firm of Harare solicitors, and will be spent on locally available equipment such as four-wheel drive tyres and kit for rangers and scouts.

Thanks to David

Much of the money was raised through donations by David of memorabilia such as gloves, shirts, autographed pictures, jumpers and bats. As there is no doubt that he could have donated these to many different organisations, we are proud that he chose SAVE as the beneficiary.

The success of this trip was mainly due to the generous donation of their time by David and Thorunn. The proceeds have helped purchase another Landcruiser.

We were delighted to hear that David and Thorunn became engaged at the end of our trip, whilst holidaying in South Africa. To you both we wish many years of happiness, and thank you for the pleasure of your company.

(David is due in Perth in late February as part of the media contingent for the World Cup and we look forward to seeing him again.)

DEHORNING

A summary by Michael D Kock, Wildlife Veterinarian, Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management, Harare

Approximately 1000 black and white rhinos have been killed by poachers in Zimbabwe since July 1984 despite major anti-poaching efforts by the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management. In 1991 the number of rhinos killed by poachers reached 100.

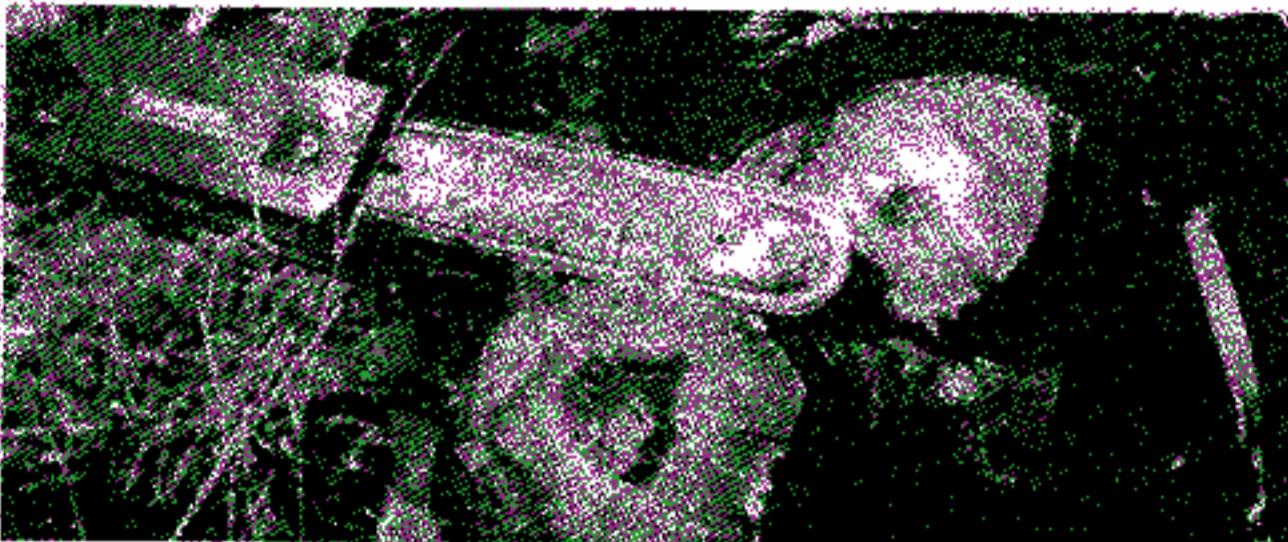
In response to the continued poaching threat a proposal was submitted in 1990 by National Parks to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to carry out an experimental dehorning operation on a selected population of white rhinos. The original proposal selected Kazuma Pan National Park, in which the population of white rhinos has been reduced by 67 per cent by poaching. These rhinos are considered particularly vulnerable due to the Park's proximity to Botswana and the area is a major route for Zambian poachers moving into Hwange National Park. In 1990, several white rhinos were poached in Hwange National Park, some close to the major tourist routes. The experimental

dehorning proposal was modified to include Hwange. Approval was given in April 1991 to carry out an experimental dehorning programme.

During 1991 over 70 white rhinos (49 adults, 10 subadults and 12 calves; 37 males and 34 females) were chemically immobilised in Hwange National Park (animals could not be located in Kazuma Pan National Park), and 59 animals were dehorned. Horns were only removed from adult and subadult animals.

Forty-eight of these animals were immobilised from a helicopter and 23 on the ground. Removal of the horns was achieved using a petrol driven chainsaw and the horn was removed as close to the skull as possible leaving the germinal (growth) area intact. The average length of the rostral horn, prior to removal, was 47cm (range three to 97cm, n=68), and caudal horn 15cm (range one to 36cm, n=66).

A research programme was implemented prior to dehorning programme and



Removal of horns by chainsaw.

CITES '92

In March this year, the next CITES (Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species) Meeting takes place in Japan.

Two years ago one of the main topics of discussion was illegal trading in elephant ivory. After much debate, it was resolved to implement a ban on ivory trading amongst CITES nations, which led to the burning of ivory in Kenya, the closing down of ivory carvers in Hong Kong, and a general reduction in this destructive trade.

Scattered around the world, however, are numerous stockpiles of ivory, with possibly as much as 200 tonnes in various African countries. Ivory is currently the focus of intense controversy, with powerful arguments both in favour of the present ban and, (from some southern African countries) for the re-introduction of restricted trading in ivory where its source has been carefully monitored.

Although SAVE does not wish to become involved in the controversy it can

appreciate the reasoning behind both arguments. East Africa has witnessed the mass destruction of tens of thousands of elephants through poaching and therefore supports the ban, while some southern African countries, through more effective management, have experienced an increase in elephant numbers and are obliged to reduce the population periodically through culling. In these countries the argument favours the sale of legally-obtained ivory in order to fund local community projects and thus win the support of conservation.

At the recent CHOGM conference in Harare, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, kindly sponsored by Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, produced and distributed to 47 Heads of State a comprehensive package on Zimbabwe's rhino and elephant problems.

If you would like a copy, please contact our Perth Office on 444 6550, or write to 229 Oxford Street, Leederville 6007.

will continue for the next three to four years. The research programme's aims are to evaluate the behavioural and reproductive consequences of dehorning. The research has the following objectives:

- 1) To evaluate the effectiveness of dehorning in reducing the poaching risk.
- 2) To characterise rates and forms of regrowth.
- 3) To examine interactions of both horned and dehorned rhinos with predators.
- 4) To investigate the influence of horn and body size variation in dominance and reproductive performance. This work is being conducted in collaboration with a parallel project in Namibia involving dehorning black rhinos.

The second phase of the dehorning programme will be carried out in 1992 with the chemical immobilisation of a percentage of dehorned animals to measure rates of horn regrowth and determine whether regrowth is normal. Efforts will be made to locate any other animals with horns, immobilise them and dehorn them.

Four hours of helicopter time was financed by SAVE.

ROYAL SHOW

Last October, for the fifth consecutive year, SAVE held its annual display at the Royal Agricultural Show, welcoming supporters back to the same location in the MacFarlane Pavilion as we have occupied each year. Our display last year was smaller than in the past, which was probably a tactical error inasmuch as our exposure was limited and accessibility to our products reduced.

On display were David Shepherd framed prints, black and white sketches, a range of stone carvings, T-shirts and windcheaters, and some jewellery; but, for the first time in five years, we felt the effects of the recession and were disappointed at the general apathy of the public towards our cause.

Jenny Barron was the main Show steward, turning up every day to serve customers, and was ably supported by Marion Bowers, Charles Kessler, Tim Scarrott, Julie Bain, Iain MacGregor, Cheryl Davenport and Laurie Kenyon. To these volunteers a very big 'thank you'; between yourselves you helped to raise about \$5000.

We should also like to mention Arthur Prior of Furniture Hire and Sales, who kindly donated the walls, cabinets, shelves, TV/video and chairs for our display. Thank you very much Arthur — you saved us a lot of money.

APOLOGY

In our last edition we mentioned the work being done in Tanzania by the sea-going patrol boat, Tusk. We incorrectly named the organisation behind this good work — it should have read: ELEFRIENDS — The Elephant Protection Group.

SPONSORS

SAVE has been very fortunate in the support of so many sponsors during 1991. Some of these companies have been helping us for the past four 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 SAVE has a big "Thank you" for each one.

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

AFFRETAIR, HARARE

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TEN BLACK RHINOS FOR WESTERN PLAINS ZOO

Last November the Minister for Environment, Tim Moore, opened the Black Rhinoceros Conservation Complex at Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, marking significant progress in a major international initiative to help save the endangered black rhinos.

Western Plains Zoo's new Black Rhinos exhibit and breeding facility — the largest and most modern of its kind in the southern hemisphere — is generously sponsored by The Australian Women's Weekly and will be operated by the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales in collaboration with the International Black Rhinoceros Foundation.

The Zoological Parks Board of N.S.W. has been working closely with other members of the International Black Rhinoceros Foundation, including the Government of Zimbabwe, to establish the new facility at Western Plains Zoo and similar facilities are underway in the United States.

The Western Plains Zoo and U.S. facilities include ex situ breeding complexes which will provide a form of conservation insurance for this endangered species.

The President and co-founder of SAVE (U.S.A.), Ingrid Schroeder, has been greatly involved in this project since its inception in August 1989 (see Vol 2 No 4). SAVE is a participant in the International Black Rhinoceros Foundation and Ingrid is on the International Board.

At the opening ceremony, the High Commissioner for Zimbabwe, Mr Lucas P. Tavaya, highlighted the plight of the black rhinos, and also explained that the special International Black Rhinoceros Foundation had been formed under the auspices of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) as part of an international plan to save the species. The sponsor, The Australian Women's Weekly, sees the Black Rhinoceros Conservation Programme as an issue of international importance and a highly positive way in which Australia can be involved in and contribute towards conservation issues of global importance.

Mr Moore also detailed the vital conservation work being carried out by the Zoological Parks Board of N.S.W., adding: "The survival of the endangered rhinos in both Africa and Asia is of great cause for global concern and combined effort. As Australia is becoming acutely aware of our impact on the local environment, our concern is beginning to extend to international conservation issues and, increasingly, governments are banding together to ensure the survival of endangered flora and fauna. It is necessary for us all to consider our local environment as part of the 'big' picture worldwide".

Declaring the facility open, the Minister said: "The black rhino is seen as an 'umbrella' species — if it is saved, then so are hundreds of other animals sharing its habitat".

The captive breeding programmes in Australia and the U.S. will augment the gene pool outside Zimbabwe. The sole purpose of this captive breeding survival plan is to establish a viable ex situ population of black rhinos which will eventually be relocated to reserves in Zimbabwe.

The 10 black rhinos to be imported from Zimbabwe are due to arrive in mid 1992 and the Zoological Parks Board of N.S.W. has been working closely with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service regarding the rhinos transport and quarantine.

Final importation to Australia is subject to strict Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service requirements.

In exchange for providing the rhinos to Australia, and a further 10 to the U.S.A., the Zimbabwe National Parks will receive two helicopters to assist with their anti-poaching patrols and translocation programmes.

Taronga Zoo's two black rhinos "Taronga" and "Dinah" will join the ten Zimbabwean rhinos at Western Plains Zoo to form the largest group of these animals in Australasia.

The new black rhinos exhibit at Western Plains Zoo will feature innovative graphics which depict the plight of the black rhinos in the wild as a result of illegal poaching. The graphics also illustrate the local and international conservation efforts underway to help ensure the species' survival.

MORE EQUIPMENT TO ZIMBABWE

Since the last edition of the newsletter in September, we have continued to supply vital anti-poaching equipment to the Zimbabwe National Parks.

SAVE and BP were co-sponsors in supplying a Bedford truck driven from London to Harare by two young Englishmen; we were pleased to gain this vehicle which will ultimately be used as a supply truck.

We also have a Toyota Landcruiser on order, provided from proceeds from the safari, the Royal Show and our large rhino money box.

Recently, five Yamaha motorbikes, an Evinrude 25hp outboard motor, basic Toyota parts and a variety of power tools were freighted to Harare, courtesy of Qantas Airways. Two of the motorbikes will go to Gonarezhou National Park in the south-east, two will go to Andy Searle at Matusadona, and one is going to Norman English at Chete.

The power tools will be used to equip a workshop to be kindly supplied to National Parks by a local Harare company at nominal rent, at the small Charles Prince Airport on the edge of town.

This will indeed be a bonus for Paul Oleszczuk and his assistants who will have a base camp in which to operate. A gearbox for Glenn Tatham's V8 Landrover has

also been supplied and freighted courtesy of Affretair. A computer, printer and accessories have been purchased and will shortly arrive in Harare, again courtesy of Qantas, to record seven years of poaching data and prepare reports, graphs and charts for future promotional work and requests for corporate sponsorship.



The BP/SAVE truck.