



PO Box FM 648, Fazona. Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Welfare No: W/0 30/94

NEWSLETTER 5 / FEBRUARY 1995

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

G R STEPHENS (CHAIRMAN); R MIRTLE (VICE CHAIRMAN); D MIRTLE (SECRETARY); I SHEASBY (TREASURER); J A BISHOP (P.R.O.); M PHILLIPSON; J MOGER; T HEMANS; M NCUBE; G AMYOT; P O'HARE

We regret that it has become necessary for PETER DUNJEY to resign from the Committee, he will soon be moving to Harare. Peter was one of the founding members and was unanimously elected at the AGM as an honorary life member. Whilst he will be missed, he takes with him, our best wishes for the future.

FINANCE

The financial position remains secure, though both funds could do with topping up! Rhino Fund \$13,301.49. General Fund \$9,664.75. A number of subs are outstanding. Family / Individual \$50, Pensioner / Scholar \$25, Institution \$100.

WELFARE STATUS

We have applied for and been granted, Welfare Status. This will be of great assistance to us in future fundraising events.

MEMBERSHIP

This has now increased from 75 persona at the time of the A.G.M. to 85. We welcome new members and the revised membership forms are now available from the society at the above address. Details of different classes of membership and subscriptions are again detailed on these forms. Mr M. Paul who initiated the R.S.A chapter has left R.S.A. for Indonesia on a five-year contract. We hope that we will not lose touch with our R.S.A. members

NATIONAL PARKS

Efforts are still ongoing in the campaign for reduced entry fees, but a reply is unlikely until the N.P.'s commission has completed its report. Interestingly, in the period up to the time park fees were introduced, the R.M.N.P was the most popular park in the country, with Victoria Falls a distant second! The present rains have averted a potential crisis in game management in the park as water was becoming very scarce. The refurbishment of Maleme Rest Camp is ongoing.

NATIONAL MUSEUMS

The Adopt-a-cave effort is progressing slowly. If any member wishes to help, please contact the Secretary. We require a person to act as co-ordinator between N.M.M's and the various donors, not a very onerous function at all, and certainly interesting.

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

Approaches have been made to the N.R.B. to have the Lumani Tree Ferns protected, and to enquire as to the extent of streambank cultivation and deforestation (particularly of Mukwa trees) on some farms and around the Mshashasha Valley in the Eastern Matopos.

FIELD DAY MEETING

On 30 October 1994, about 25 members travelled to the Mtshabezi Valley and the site of the recently completed Z\$35M dam. This was an all-day event and most of us were equipped with spades and forks to facilitate the listing of small plant species such as aloes, orchids and ferns from within the dam area (which will be flooded) to above the dam wall. Of particular interest was the discovery of a new colony of the rare Osmondo Regalia Fern (only the fourth known colony) which has been removed. The ferns appear to have "settled" in their new home. This was a hot, but very interesting day. A further visit to the site is planned for later this year.

NEXT FUNCTION

EVENT : Visit to Matobo Mission
VENUE : Matobo Mission
DAY : Sunday 19 February 1995
TIME : Meet at Cresta Churchill at 9:00 am
BRING : Lunch, drinks, chairs, hats etc

The road is in good condition. Background details of the Mission and the area in which it is located will be provided later. We do hope this event will be well supported. If it is, it will encourage the Committee to plan further expeditions into the Matopos area which means so much to us all.

WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU/

FOR YOUR DIARY

EVENT : Matopos Slide Show
VENUE : Newman Hall, Natural History Museum
DAY : Friday 24 March 1995
TIME : 7:00 pm

Watch the press for further details

NEWS ITEMS

As our Chairman reported at the A.G.M., our members are our eyes and ears. Please report anything unusual that you see taking place, or find, in the Matopos.

Contributions from members for the newsletter will be most welcome.