



PO Box FM 648, Famaona. Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Welfare No: W/0 30/94

NEWSLETTER 6 / JUNE 1995

OBITUARY

The Society records with sorrow the passing away of a founder, and honorary member, Mr Peter Dunjey, in February this year. A true gentleman who will be missed by his many friends.

- 1) Attached to this is a tribute to the late Peter Dunjey by archivist Peter Genge. It is self-explanatory and is illustrated by copies of unusual rock paintings. It is distressing to note that these paintings have recently been disfigured with charcoal.
- 2) Our Society is slowly building up working relationships with the Umzingwane and Maobo Rural District Councils. We are endeavouring to obtain environmental literature for both Councils for a conservational awareness campaign in their schools. It is hoped that the aims of our Society can be increasingly related to the tremendous ecological, economic and social problems in the Communal areas of the Matobo Hills.
- 3) All chalets in Matobo are being converted into lodges in order to provide internal bathrooms, toilet and kitchens for visitors and, of course, additional privacy.

Lodges in various Parks are being equipped with new and comfortable lounge chairs. Some new beds are also being purchased,

- 4) The Chronicle, dated 2 June 1995, published an interview with our Chairman, Gavin Stephens, in which he highlighted our concern about the sign erected by the Department of National Parks at the main entry point into the Matobo Park. The article also contained a photograph of this sign which gives rates for foreign visitors.

Example : SINGLE DAY ENTRY - \$20 per person

It does not however, state that for Zimbabweans it is \$10 per day.

It is unfortunate that this article contained an error. It should have read:-

"Entry fees will be retained by the Park for maintenance of facilities and provision of water."

- 5) We have received a request from the Black Eagle Society for the supply of Bundu Books for use in rural schools in the Matobo. Their request is being considered.
- 6) Our Field Day Meeting in February took place as advised. It was a very interesting visit to the Matobo Mission but, sadly it was poorly attended.
- 7) Our public meeting took place on 24 March 1995 in the Natural History Museum. It had been well advertised and a large number of non-members attended. Further

meetings of this kind will be arranged and, in future, members will be advised by a mailed invitation.

8) **FINANCE**

As a whole the financial position is sound, though the two trust funds account for most of the deposits with the bank.

Recent receipts include \$5,000 towards the Rhino Fund, received from a local donor, whilst \$12,000 received from the D Gower Trust was handed on to the DNPW and used to purchase a motor cycle for use by Mr N Chiweshe in his travels to rural schools where he is monitoring Black Eagles, and conducting conservation lessons at schools.

9) **MEMBERSHIP**

Applications for membership continue to be received, and more are welcome! Speak to your friends!

10) **COMMITTEE**

10a) New Treasurer

Mr Barry Knight has joined our Committee. He succeeds Iain Sheasby who is enjoying an extended vacation in the UK.

10b) New Secretary

Mrs Jane McLoughlin has joined our Committee replacing Mrs Dot Mirtle.

10c) We record our appreciation to both Ian and Dot for their hard work and enthusiasm.

We end this Newsletter by repeating the request we have made before: -

Contributions from Members are most welcome!

So far, we have not received any.