



PO Box FM 648, Famona. Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Welfare No: W/O 30/94

## NEWSLETTER 11 / AUGUST 1996

### **1 - COMMITTEE NEWS**

It is that time of the year when we call upon our members to give some thought to whom they would like to have representing them on the Society's Committee. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the secretary, and should contain the signature of the nominee as confirmation that he/she has agreed to stand. We require a minimum of 5 members, and a maximum of 15 (the present committee comprises 10 members). Whilst most committee members have expressed their willingness to serve again, we require nominations in particular for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr Gavin Stephens, having served for three consecutive years may not stand again in terms of the constitution, whilst Mr Iain Sheasby will be taking up an appointment with Ernst and Young in Dubai.

It is important that we elect the right group of people onto our committee, those with a desire and ability to work and contribute to the Society. We have achieved much in the past few years, but there is still much to do. This also gives the Society a chance to refocus and set new objectives for the following year(s). We appeal to our members to please contribute towards this important election, and to attend the Annual General Meeting, (details recorded below).

### **2 - ROCK ART BROCHURE**

The Rock Art Brochure which was featured in the last newsletter, is now ready for production and copies will be made available to members attending the AGM. The art work was generously provided by Miss Isla Darlow, whilst the brochure itself has been approved by the Natural History Museum. This SHELL ZIMBABWE sponsored brochure will soon be distributed throughout the Matobo area.

### **3 - DONATIONS**

The Society has made available sets of the Bundu books for distribution to the various schools in the region, by Mr Ngoni Chiweshi of the Ornithological Research Unit of the National Parks.

### **4 - UPDATE**

#### **COURIER TRAINING**

The MCS provided speakers for the Courier Training Course that was arranged in conjunction with the Bulawayo Publicity Association, and a strong appeal was made for responsible use of the Matopos and in particular of the rock art heritage.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to thank those members who volunteered their time and vehicles for use by the MCS in assisting bodies such as the NRB in our joint conservation efforts. We shall call upon you in due course.

## 5 - EDUCATION

We participated in the field day, held in June at Ntepi School, Gwanda District, by constructing a micro catchment area. This may be described as a soil and water conservation project designed for the production of vegetables and fruit trees in an area of only 6 x 4 meters. The produce should be sufficient for a family for a 12-month period.

## 6 - NEXT EVENT

WHERE	NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM		
WHEN	18 OCTOBER 1996	MEET	5:00pm for 5:15pm
WHO	ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS		
WHAT	The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society, plus GUEST SPEAKER. Our guest speaker will be advertised in the press, along with an appropriate topic.		

## 7 - REPORT BACK

We are pleased to report that the Society enjoyed another tremendous outing on 30 June. The visit to Entumbane was fascinating, whilst the day spent on Boomerang farm was enjoyed by all, with Mrs PADDY VICKERY discussing the history of the area. Whilst the old Fort was not located we are getting closer, and if Mr PAUL HALSTED will accommodate us again in the future we are confident of finding the site.

## 8 - GATE HOUSE

The new entry into the National Park at Sandy Spruit has now been completed, and replaces the previous tin shack. The large steel structure over the road will be thatched in due course, making quite a grand gateway. Whilst the new entrance is appropriate, it does not possess a visitor centre as we were hoping. However, this matter shall be pursued with the authorities. It is understood that in time more appropriate gatehouses will be introduced throughout the park.

## 9 - LUMANE VALLEY

In recent months significant progress has been made on the LUMANE TREE FERN PROJECT. The Umzingwane Rural District Council has approved the declaration of the tree ferns as a protected area by the Natural Resources Board. The Chairman has subsequently met with the local inhabitants to explain what will now be done, and received overwhelming support from all who attended. It is hoped that the project to re-establish the forest canopy, and fence the area will get underway before Christmas. To this end we will be appealing to members to either grow, or purchase, and donate to the society appropriate indigenous trees that will be planted in the vicinity of the tree ferns.

Sadly, the last examination of the site, undertaken this month, recorded a significant decline in the numbers of the tree ferns over the past two years. However, a number of young tree ferns were also located, which indicates that the plants are capable of re-establishing themselves if we can just do enough to protect their environment.

## 10 - WORLD HERITAGE SUBMISSION

The final World Heritage Submission was prepared by National Museums and Monuments and submitted within the July deadline. We will keep you posted on further progress.

## 11 - PARKS FEES

There is considerable speculation on the new Parks Fees. Your society was represented at a ZATSO meeting held to put forward proposals for the Matobo National Park, and these have been submitted to the relevant Ministry. You may have noticed that the National Budget excluded any revenue from Parks, as all such funds will now accrue directly to the

Parks, and not to Treasury. We can regrettably expect a substantial hike in entry fees in the near future, but cannot provide any further details on this matter until either the Ministry or Parks have made a public statement.



**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTIONS?  
ALL SUBS FOR 1996/1997 WERE DUE ON  
31 JULY 1996**

\$50 Ordinary  
members



**DO NOT FORGET THE ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
5:15PM FRIDAY 1 8TH OCTOBER 1996  
NEWMAN HALL, NATURAL HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

