

MATOBO



SOCIETY

PO Box FM 648, Fazona. Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Welfare No: W/0 30/94

NEWSLETTER 12 / DECEMBER 1996

1 - COMMITTEE NEWS

It is our pleasure to announce the new committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting held at the Natural History Museum on 18th October 1996.

Chairman	Mr R Stephens	Liaison, DNPWM & Matobo Committee
V/Chairman	Mr G Stephens	Liaison, NMM
Treasurer	Mr B Knight	
Secretary	Mr T Hemans	
	Mr D Darby	Members Sec
	Mr D Erwee	Education
	Miss C Flannagan	Education
	Mrs M Friend	Events Sec
	Dr D Gunby	Liaison, Rural District Councils & Mtshabezi
	Mr M Phillipson	Liaison, NRB
	Mrs F Sibindi	
	Mrs T Wami	

There are a number of projects underway which the new committee will seek to bring to a conclusion during the year ahead. They will however need the full support of our members.

2 - ROCK ART BROCHURE

The Rock Art Brochure which was featured in the last newsletter, has been handed over to National Museums and Monuments and will be available to the public from the Natural History Museum, the Sandy Spruit entry, Maleme Rest Camp, and the site museums at Pomongwe and Nsvatuke. Copies were available for members at the AGM.

3 - WORLD HERITAGE SUBMISSION

The July meeting at which our submission was to be presented was postponed, which, whilst disappointing, does allow the National Museums and Monuments to add further data to the original work. They are also hoping to include an introductory video, and consequently we are appealing for any members who may possess filming equipment, and have some experience in video material, to offer their services for this worth – while cause.

The National Museums and Monuments have formed a sub-committee to prepare the final submission of our World Heritage Application. This work must be completed by May next year and your society will be represented on this sub-committee by Mr G Stephens.

We are aware that this effort has faced delays, but if we are to achieve our goal it is necessary to keep up the pressure, and maintain our involvement. It is hoped that this sub-committee will be able to finally "bring home the trophy"!

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR & GOOD RAINS !

4 – NEXT EVENT

WHERE	Field trip to the Lumane Tree Ferns, Lumane Valley, Eastern Matopos
WHEN	26th January 1997
MEET	at Ascot Service Station 9:00am for 9: 15am departure
WHO	ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHAT	Bring packed lunch, hat and lots to drink, as well as spades etc.
WHY	To establish the Lumane Tree Fern Protected Area

This is a "working" trip into the hills, similar to that undertaken into the Mtshabezi valley in 1995. We will be demarking the protected area, erecting fencing, and within the enclosure, planting appropriate indigenous trees. Members are asked to collect young trees (or seedlings) which may be given to either Mr Mike Phillipson, or to Mr D Darby at Agrihort (mornings only). These include *Ficus capensis*, *natalensis* and *thonningii*, and *Acacia sieberana* and *galpinii*, as well as *Pterocarpus rotundifolius*, *Brachystegia glaucescens* (mountain acaia) and *Terminalia sericea* (mangwe). The area is also home to the rare *Ilex mitis*, (Wild holly) and *Casonia spicata*. We will also employ local members of the community to assist with the effort and monitor the area, whilst the whole exercise will be conducted with Natural Resources Board staff.

5 - REPORT BACK

Dr Peter Mundy spoke at the Annual General Meeting on research projects being undertaken by the Ornithological Research Unit of the DNPWM in the Matobo Hills. Your society has been providing assistance to two of these efforts, namely the dassie research, and the schools conservation clubs, and it is our hope that we will continue to assist these worthwhile projects. Dr Mundy's report was most interesting, providing a wealth of information on both the dassie and the black eagle, and we hope that we will be able to call on him again in the future to share some more of his knowledge with us.

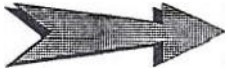
6 - PARKS FEES

We are sure that all members are now aware of the proposed massive hike in Park entry fees that have been proposed by the Government. It is obvious that the recommendations of the ZATSO sub-committee, submitted to the relevant Ministry, were not taken into account. Of even greater concern to the MCS is the fact that the dual fee, i.e. the DNPWM and NMM fees, within the Matobo National Park is still not resolved. This single administrative problem is the cause of massive damage to our Rock Art, and yet the Ministries concerned are still unable to resolve this despite assurances given to this Society by the Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism that the matter would be settled by March of this year. Your Committee will be tackling this issue, along with the general fees debate.

For your information some of the new fees, which started 1 Dec 1996, are listed:

Entry	\$20,00 p/p local visitor US\$10,00 p/p foreign visitor (\$110 p/p)
Car	\$50,00 per sedan / station wagon (caravan \$50, 00, trailer \$25) \$100,00 per light truck or 4 x 4
Firewood	\$40,00 per bundle
Camp site	\$100,00 p/p per day, (\$50,00 per half day)
Picnic site	\$60,00 p/p per day, (\$80,00 per half day)

Whilst we endorse the commercialisation of the Parks, we feel that government is responsible for ensuring that the facilities are handed over to the new administration in good working order (not the run-down, poor condition that we find in our parks today) and that a professional and autonomous Board is established, which is committed to sound management and conservation.

	HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS? ALL SUBS FOR 1996/1997 WERE DUE ON 31 JULY 1996	\$50,00 ordinary members
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