



PO Box FM 648, Famona. Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Welfare No: W/O 30/94

## NEWSLETTER 15 / SEPTEMBER 1997

### **1 - MATOBO COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Matobo Committee, which, with the Department of National Parks, is responsible for the administration of the Matobo National Park in terms of the Rhodes Trust, invited a representative of the Society, and of similar bodies such as the Wildlife Society, Ornithological Society and the Rapture Research group (Black Eagle Survey) to a meeting of the Committee at the Parks. The intention is to hold these meetings quarterly, as they provide a forum at which matters affecting all interest bodies can be openly discussed - and resolved! This will give the various bodies an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the Park, and a better understanding of its operations, which in turn should go a long way to eliminate the level of frustration that has been experienced to date.

Specific details from this meeting are noted elsewhere in this newsletter, but there are many exciting developments planned for our Park. These include new camps, new lodges, possibly a restaurant at Maleme, and an Interpretive Centre at Sandy Spruit. All paid from the gate monies that have been collected! We will play an important environmental role in all this development.

### **2 - MATOBO NATIONAL PARK BROCHURE**

Our new brochure is at the printers, and examples should be available at the AGM. A further 5,000 copies of the popular Rock Art Brochure have been reproduced, and will be made available from Sandy Spruit, Pomongwe Cave and Maleme Rest Camp. It is intended to place laminated copies of both of these brochures at major visitor sites, subject to official approval.

### **3 - LITTER BAGS**

The litter bags that have been supplied by PROCON SALES are available upon entry into the Matobo National Park at Sandy Spruit. However, please ask the National Parks Staff for a bag as it seems they are not being offered as intended. Your committee will discuss this with the Park warden in due course.

### **4 - LUMANE TREES**

As temperatures have now reached the 80C + level, we remind members of the programme to water the tree seedlings that were planted at Lumane Tree Fern site earlier this year. Mrs Mary Friend can be contacted on 42469.

Those that have already advised us their willingness to assist will be contacted by Mary in due course.



## 5 - SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid your subscriptions! Only paid-up members may vote at the A.G.M. It's not too late, so get your subs in today!

## 6 - NEXT EVENT

WHERE	Social trip to Matobo Communal Land, and Shumba Shaba Mkulu Farm
WHEN	Sunday 28 September 1997
MEET	at Churchill Arms Hotel 09:00am for 09:15am departure
WHO	All members and friends
WHAT	Bring own lunch, deck chairs, drinks. Don't forget your hat!
WHY	A social outing

The trip out to the Matobo Communal Land will be down the Old Gwanda Road, and then, after Matopo Mission, down a local service road. No special vehicles are required. We will visit the attractive Sotcha dam, and possibly visit one of the many caves in that area. There is also an outstanding balancing rock feature along this road, so don't forget your camera!

It is intended to return to Shumba Shaba Mkulu Farm for lunch, a leisurely afternoon, and then return home.

## 7 - REPORT BACK

The society's visit to Mineral King Farm proved to be another popular event. National Parks gave our members free passage through the Park, which was greatly appreciated, whilst the talk given by George Banfield and Ngoni Chiweshe on the black eagles - with a nest that was conveniently visible - proved to be the highlight of the day. Once again, Mary's organisation set a high standard.

## 8 - PARK AND MUSEUM FEES

Despite some agreements being made locally on the combining of Park and Museum fees, it seems that Harare has now pushed the matter back to the starting point. Mr M Ndlovu, Chairman of the Matobo Committee is to now try to resolve the matter at a Ministerial level!

Some good news is that Parks are aware of the present delays in purchasing tickets, and intend to introduce a revised, mechanical means of providing tickets at Sandy Spruit. Electric power has been provided at Sandy Spruit to facilitate this development.

## 9 - WALKING IN THE NATIONAL PARK

This matter was discussed at length with the authorities, and it was finally resolved that any person wanting to walk anywhere in the Matobo National Park must advise the nearest warden or ranger of your intentions before setting off. You may be asked to sign an appropriate book. Please co-operate in this matter, as it will save us all a lot of trouble in the long run. Designated walks, i.e. to Inange cave, or walks close to picnic sites, do not require prior notice.

## 10 - COMPLAINTS

We frequently receive complaints from members and the public about matters in the park. Please refer these first to the warden or ranger on duty so that action can be taken immediately to rectify the matter. If necessary, then write to the Warden, Matobo National Park as it is his responsibility to resolve these matters. If you feel that there is then no satisfaction, please copy the complaint to the Society. In this way, complaints will be dealt with a lot more appropriately.



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

VENUE                   NEWMAN HALL,  
                              NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
TIME                    5:15pm for 5:30pm  
DATE                    17 October 1997  
SPEAKER & TOPIC      TO BE ADVISED

Please give serious thought to nominations, which should be submitted to the Secretary, in writing, prior to the meeting. Remember, your Society can only be as strong as the Committee elected to run it!