



NATIONAL TRUST OF ZIMBABWE

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 OF 2012

1. MEMBERSHIP
2. FUND-RAISING
3. UPDATE ON LOCAL PROPERTIES

Rhodes Nyanga Exhibition/Museum

La Rochelle

Murahwa's Hill - Mutare

4. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

INTO CONFERENCE 2011 IN VICTORIA CANADA

5. KAREN DICKIN'S VISIT Oct/Nov 2012

The Chairman, Tim Tanser and Committee members Harare, Mutare and Nyanga, wish all National Trust of Zimbabwe members a very Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year.

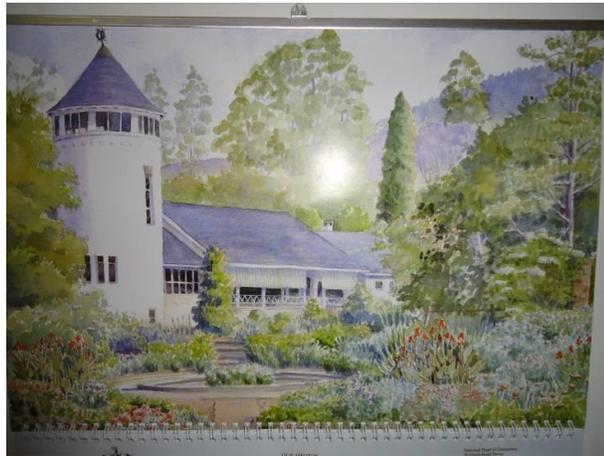
1. **MEMBERSHIP**

Please be reminded that membership renewals are due. Please contact Helen Hyslop on Harare 860202 in this regard. We would encourage you to forward the Newsletter to friends and family and encourage as many of your contacts to join the National Trust of Zimbabwe. After all, the sites are for all the people of Zimbabwe and visitors alike, to appreciate and enjoy.

Our Mutare Committee is active and has a growing number of enthusiastic NTZ members, thanks to our committee members down that way!!

2. FUND RAISING

Our fund-raising committee embarked on a project to have calendars printed for 2012, these are available now at \$5 each (or more from generous donors!) from Lin Goncalves office at 88 Fife Avenue between 9am and 5pm. They make a fine gift for overseas family and friends. Prints are also available and ideal for framing.



Local water colourist Margi Grobelaar very kindly painted and donated a very good water colour study of La Rochelle, capturing the tranquility and colours of the garden and surrounding trees and it was used for the calendar. Notelets using the same print will be available soon and the original will be auctioned at a fund-raising event in the next few months. It is our intention to organise an 'event' to highlight the National Trust and the work we have undertaken in the last two years. Members will be informed by email well in advance!!! We hope to have your support!

3. UP-DATE ON OUR LOCAL PROPERTIES

RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

There is now a very active Nyanga committee made up of local Nyanga residents and curator, Edmore Nyamatowa, at the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition, which is housed in Cecil Rhodes' stables alongside the Rhodes Nyanga Hotel.

The new local committee, together with Edmore, has been working really hard in restoring and cleaning up the exhibition, and we are extremely grateful to all those generous folk who have kindly given the Trust a number of interesting items, photographs, books, artifacts, clothing etc...to boost the display.



Figure 1 – Some of the items which have recently been donated to the Rhodes Historical Exhibition, Nyanga

Signage has been replaced and a lot of repairs and maintenance have been undertaken, including the cleaning up and repainting of the little ‘shop’ opposite the Exhibition, we have just heard that it has been opened already and has a number of interesting items for the visitor to purchase.



Figure 2 Signs have been spruced up outside the Exhibition

WORLDS VIEW

Sadly, as happens at that time of the year, a massive fire swept through Worlds View in October, decimating a lot of the surrounding trees, although I am certain that by now, with the excellent rains, the regrowth has started and the area will be looking great in no time at all. We are most grateful to Gill Honeyman who is resident close by, for her kind support and assistance with the maintenance of this beautiful site.

We would encourage all visitors to the area to take the time to visit both sites whilst there.

LA ROCHELLE

Following Oliver Maurice’s visit (from INTO in November 2010) to Zimbabwe, and to some of our sites, we were all thrilled to learn that he had organized for someone to come to Zimbabwe from the National Trust of UK, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland, in October/November 2011, to spend two months with our National Trust of Zimbabwe.

We were all happy to welcome Karen DICKIN, whose entire career has been with the National Trust in the UK. She came to Zimbabwe on a two month sabbatical with vast experience from the National Trust UK, having spent over 20 years with them. It was very interesting for us too, to learn more about the National Trust's properties and operations from Karen.

Karen arrived in Zimbabwe, having been told that October was our hottest month and that she should bring 'lightweight' clothing and perhaps just a little jacket/cardigan for the sometimes cooler evenings.....she arrived and was duly whisked off to Nyanga where it was FREEZING COLD on those particular days and pouring with rain! While the writer was in Sussex in a HEATWAVE of over 30 degrees C!

Karen wasted no time in familiarizing herself with the properties in the area, visiting Rhodes Nyanga and Worlds View before being taken to La Rochelle, which was to be her home for almost the next two months.

Her brief was to concentrate on La Rochelle and to draw up a Management Plan for the Trust property. Her visit has certainly left us all filled with inspiration to get cracking and get our La Rochelle 'back on the map'.

There is a lot of work to do – the programme will be massive and once we have had our brain-storming sessions, we will plot the way forward with regard to applications for donor funding for most of the heavy work which needs to be undertaken. An application has already been made for funding to undertake the repairs to the Welsh slate roof of both the tower and the main homestead building, which as you all know, is run as a hotel by Simon and Della Herring. Bookings may be made directly with Simon - Telephone: Mutare (code 020) 22250 and 0772 306 560 - E:mail lrochellezim@gmail.com

MURAHWA'S HILL – MUTARE

Work has been underway to clear the overgrown entrance area and parking site leading to Murahwa's Hill. At the end of October a very informative workshop was held at the site, with Darrel Plowes of our Mutare Committee, Karen Dickin of the National Trust (UK), Bill Johnstone our Mutare Committee Chairman, and Dr. Paul Mupira of the Mutare Museum. The event was tremendously well attended by a considerable number of very interested Mutare residents and we hope that over the course of this year, we will be able to start work on a project which will see the construction of an information centre to provide an insight into the history of the site and to attract more visitors, particularly school groups, to the area and to this very interesting part of Mutare's history and heritage.

It is a valuable site for birding enthusiasts, historians and all flora and fauna 'fundis' and offers a diverse range of nature without the visitor having to go far 'off the beaten track' as the site is right IN Mutare, situated near the Wise Owl Motel.



Figure 3 From L to R – Darrel Plowes, Dr. Paul Mupira, Karen Dickin and Bill Johnstone at the Murawah's Hill site

4. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

INTO CONFERENCE – VICTORIA, B.C. VANCOUVER ISLAND, CANADA

One of our Committee members, Lin Goncalves, attended the 14th INTO Conference held in Victoria, Canada between 12th and 15th October 2011, with thanks to bursary funding from the Getty Foundation, which covered the flight and accommodation costs, without which we would not have been able to represent the NTZ. It was a great opportunity to renew the contacts made in Dublin in 2009 and review what we have achieved since 2009, the first being Oliver Maurice's visit, followed by Karen's stay and subsequent Management Plan for the Trust. The INTO members we have come to know over the past few years are very interested in helping the NTZ and it is encouraging to see such a huge international group of people with a common goal/purpose which is to preserve, protect and nurture those sites of great historical, cultural, natural beauty and value and to educate the next generation to do the same. Delegates from a number of countries were present – to name a few – Kenya, Canada, USA, India, Australia, Ireland, Fiji, China, Bermuda, France, Malaysia, Taiwan, Slovakia, Russia, South Africa, Malta, St. Lucia, and South Korea.....and many presented subjects from their countries relevant to the theme this year which was 'Connecting People, Places and Stories' with great emphasis placed on education and conservation. If any member would like an emailed copy of the Conference report, please contact lingoncalves@zol.co.zw

The next INTO Conference will be held in Uganda in 2013, each continent taking a turn to host the Conference. We hope that Zimbabwe will be on the short-list for the next INTO Conference in Africa!

5. KAREN DICKIN'S VISIT Oct/Nov 2011

Karen brought with her a wealth of experience and knowledge on all matters 'National Trust' and did a tremendous amount of hard work during her stay at La Rochelle, giving her time to get to know the product and also to understand the hardships we have been faced with over the last few years. She had time to learn about the history of the property and Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia Courtauld's lives both prior to, and during La Rochelle days.

She brought with her sets of management guidelines on other National Trust properties which we can adapt for our use here in Zimbabwe.

She has returned to the UK and to her full-time position with the National Trust and is actively engaged in seeking support and assistance in any shape, manner or form for NTZ from the vast wealth of expertise in the UK, and has already had some very positive response from a number of National Trust property Head Gardeners and also from The Eden Project.

We will endeavour to follow up on all possible leads for assistance and are truly grateful to Oliver Maurice for his efforts to help us and to Karen for giving of her time to spend with us and she has left us with a determination to see the glory and charm and dignity of this wonderful property restored.

The Mutare Committee must be commended for all their input too, all volunteering time and effort, mileage and attention in order to revive this magnificent property.

We will remain eager to follow up on any LOCAL leads for assistance with the La Rochelle programme. If any of our members have any ideas, we will be most grateful to hear from you.

Lastly, we still have copies of 'The Last Shangri-La' available on DVD at \$10 per copy, please contact lingoncalves@zol.co.zw if you would like one. It's a documentary approx 40 minutes long, on the Courtaulds and

their life in the Imbeza Valley, as well as some coverage on the work they undertook in Malawi prior to settling at La Rochelle.

We are looking forward to a very active and rewarding year ahead and will keep you informed on progress.

OUR MISSION

TO BE THE CUSTODIANS OF THOSE PROPERTIES AND SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND NATURAL BEAUTY WHICH WE HOLD IN TRUST AND TO MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THEM FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND OUR FRIENDS NOW, AND AS A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

