



## **Mission Statement**

‘To act as custodians of those properties of cultural heritage and natural beauty held in trust and maintain them for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe as a legacy for future generations’.

### NATIONAL TRUST OF ZIMBABWE NEWSLETTER VOL 1 OF 2014

1. MEMBERSHIP
2. FUND-RAISING and MARKETING  
New benefits to members  
Discounts on selected items at Hayhill
3. UPDATE ON LOCAL PROPERTIES  
Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition  
La Rochelle  
Murawah’s Hill – Mutare  
Worlds View
4. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS  
INTO Conference, Entebbe, Uganda

1. Membership – Harare membership currently stands at 114, Mutare 22 and Nyanga/Worlds View 21, a total of 157 members  
We were very happy to have signed up a good number of new members (36) and renewals at the St. John’s Fair held at the beginning of October, which is always well attended. A big thank you to the donors who gave US\$100 on the day too.

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**Figure 1 - Fira Bache chatting to one of our NTZ members at the St. John's Fair**

We would like to encourage our members to share our newsletter with friends, family and anyone you feel might be interested and benefit from our properties.

Remember too that NTZ members enjoy full reciprocity with the National Trust in the United Kingdom as well as other countries.

Locally our members also enjoy reciprocity with The National Gallery and REPS Theatre. AND.....a 10% discount on studio work with Scotty Photography!

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In addition, members can take advantage of a discount on certain items on offer at HAYHILL WEAVERS.

2. Our Money-for-Jam project continues and we acknowledge with grateful thanks, NANCY BENHAM'S super effort, selling US\$150 worth of jam on our behalf!!

Delicious homemade jams from Nyanga are always available – supporting the local Nyanga community and the NTZ. Please call Helen Hyslop on Harare 860202 to arrange collection of your delicious fruit jams! And if you can offer to sell some on our behalf, proceeds not only help your National Trust but also the folk who produce the jams in Nyanga!

Any help with corporate donations in cash or kind will always be welcome– please contact us via our email address – [ntzimbabwe@gmail.com](mailto:ntzimbabwe@gmail.com)

Please visit our FACEBOOK page too, for updates and photographs. (National Trust Zimbabwe)

3. RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

The Exhibition was closed for the month of November in order for refurbishments to take place.

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The Nyanga Committee have been incredibly dedicated in getting the whole site cleaned up, and preparing for the re-vamp of the Exhibition. Grateful thanks to members and friends who have donated a great number of exhibits to boost the collection. We have been getting very positive feed-back from visitors which is wonderful.

The NTZ acknowledges with thanks, the enormous help from the Australian Ambassador H.E. Matthew Nauhaus, through the Australian Embassy's DIRECT AID PROGRAMME . This is much appreciated and will go a long way towards the refurbishment of the site for the enjoyment and interest of many.

### **Australian Embassy supports the National Trust of Zimbabwe**

The National Trust of Zimbabwe (NTZ) is happy and proud to announce that the **Australian Embassy** has agreed to provide funds from their DAP (**Development Aid Program**) for the extension of one of the NTZ properties - the 'Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition'. Sincere gratitude goes to Ambassador HE Neuhaus and his colleagues including Ms Avigail Shai, the Third Secretary and Vice Consul for the show of confidence in the future of the RNHE. The Vision of the Rhodes Nyanga Museum Committee is to provide a professional, educational and balanced view of the history, natural heritage and culture of the communities in the Nyanga district.

**The Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition ('Rhodes Museum')** is located in the Rhodes Nyanga National Park close to Rhodes Nyanga Hotel. The nucleus of the Hotel was originally the home of Cecil John Rhodes, during his visits to Nyanga between 1897 and 1900. The Museum is housed in Rhodes' Stables, adjacent to the Hotel, built in 1897 by R Marks, and used by Rhodes for the stabling of horses and mules. Rhodes and his subsequent Estate Managers experimented extensively with crops and livestock and laid the foundations of the agricultural industry in the area.

On his death in 1902, Rhodes' Nyanga Estate was bequeathed in trust to the people of Zimbabwe. In 1933, when a change in policy dictated that the area be developed primarily as a tourist area, the Trustees handed the administration of Rhodes Estate to National Parks.

In May, 1974 the National Trust of the then Rhodesia, acquired from Government the right to occupy the stables and adjoining buildings for the public display of manuscripts, photographs and other exhibits of interest relating to the Nyanga area, and persons and events connected with its history and development. Members of the Trust began collecting together articles of historic interest, including some of Rhodes' furniture, and artefacts, photographs and



articles depicting the various nucleus of the early Exhibition.

Nyanga eras. These formed the

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In 2011 the NTZ applied for funding from the **Beit Trust** with which to re-furbish the stables. In April 2011 the Nyanga Branch of the NTZ was established, with the objective of upgrading, arranging new displays and supervising the finances of the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition.

A second grant, through Dr Ines Grainger – on behalf of **The Don Grainger Memorial Fund** - has been utilised to renovate the Saddle room, where the '**Don Grainger Research and Reading Room**' is at present being assembled. Some of the funds are to be used for the project of enlarging the display area in the Museum and providing an Activity Area for children. One of the aims of the Committee is to provide an educational centre in Nyanga, particularly for school children and students, and it is encouraging to see the number of visiting school groups increasing monthly.

Public support has been most encouraging, with a rich collection of historical material, objects and books having been donated or loaned to the Museum since 2011. Ms Anne Derges, qualified Librarian, has given generously of her time to sort and catalogue books. The local community is supportive and encouraging, and research is being undertaken by many interested persons, apart from the enthusiastic Committee members, to give a wider and more comprehensive display. The Nyanga Garden Club assists with the garden.

The Historical Exhibition includes displays on early Manyika African culture and Traditional Leadership, early European explorers and the first years of colonial rule. Chief Tangwena and the struggle for Zimbabwe is well documented. The development of agriculture, education, religion, tourism, etc. is traced, using pictures and documentation. The Exhibition contains a collection of archaeological material from the Nyanga district and displays of traditional crafts. Some of the exhibits are temporary, ensuring that the Exhibition remains lively and up to date.



There is now urgent need for space for new displays. The Committee has decided to utilise the only available area - **the barn loft** - used originally for storing hay. It is for this essential project that the **Australian DAP Funds** are required.

Extensions or modifications to historic buildings demand adherence to strict international standards. Plans have to be in keeping with the age and architecture of the building. NTZ is grateful to Mr Richard Davies, Consultant Architect to the National Trust of England and English Heritage, who offered his time and expertise. The extension project requires both an internal and an external (safety) staircase. Chartered Architect, Mr Richard Beattie, has drawn up the plans for both staircases (at no cost to NTZ) and Mr Pat Hallows (Pixalo Projects), is the contractor. The insulation of the ceiling – to provide protection of materials on display, and the installation of suitable lighting is the initial task: work is now in progress!

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Photographs showing Dr. Ines Grainger recently at RNHE (from the top left to right) - Pat Hallows fits the security door to the Don Grainger Reading and Research Room

Betina and Ines - placing the first dollars in the antique cash box!

Betina Pasteknik (niece of Ines) and Dr Ines Grainger

Cain Mutsikwi (Curator) answers Betina's questions

Edone Logan,(Chairman), Onias Bepe (Parks Area Manager), Dr. Ines Grainger, Merle and Nigel Moore (Committee members) in the Reading Room.

Betina and Onias Bepe

Betina and Ines at entrance to Museum

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**The Don Grainger Reading and Research Room.** Col. Donald Grainger was a renowned humanitarian, who devoted his life to the service of others. Following a remarkable career in the army, he retired in 1971 and with his Argentinian-born wife, Dr Ines Grainger, ran a farm in Juliasdale, Nyanga, for 25 years. The couple met when both were studying at

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Munich University, and they supported and complimented each other throughout their lives together. Their loyalty and affection for the Nyanga area was cemented during their farming years.

The couple became deeply involved in humanitarian work in Zimbabwe. Don's achievements were recognised by his appointment by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II as one of the eleven Grand Bailiffs of the Order of St John's. He received Knighthoods in four Orders of Chivalry, and under his chairmanship the Orders implemented numerous projects in Zimbabwe. He worked tirelessly as President for the Council for the Blind, travelling often to rural areas. Don and Ines travelled extensively overseas in their quest to raise funds for Zimbabwean charities.

Don Grainger was President of the Zimbabwe Association for the Disabled and the Paraplegic Assn. His interest and brilliance in sports, in particular swimming and water polo, led him to teach amputees and paraplegics. Don represented Rhodesia and Zimbabwe in the Olympics teams. His contribution to sport was recognised in 1997 by the FINA Silver Award. As Chairman of the Zimbabwe Leprosy Council, Don Grainger was largely instrumental in building the Leprosy Village at Mutemwa (Mashonaland).

Grainger was Governor of Ranch House College for 33 years, and education became his passion. Author of numerous publications in the field of development economics, Col Grainger also wrote the popular booklet, "Don't die in the Bundu". "Sport in Rehabilitation of the Disabled" and "Primary Healthcare in the Third World" were just two of his published articles.

He was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary for the International Parliament for Safety and Peace, and accredited by the Government of Zimbabwe in 1995, a diplomatic appointment which he held until his death in 2000. To perpetuate his memory, **The Don Grainger Memorial Trust** was established in 2000 for the promotion and implementation of charitable projects. Dr Ines Grainger and her niece, Ms Betina Pastchnik, tirelessly continue to raise funds world-wide for these projects.

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In 2013 Dr Ines Grainger donated a large collection of Col. Don Grainger personal effects to the NTZ to be displayed in the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition. The collection consists of valuable books, uniforms, trophies, regalia, medals, etc., and literature and photographs pertaining to the Graingers' humanitarian work in Zimbabwe. The NTZ are extremely appreciative of this valuable collection, and have agreed that the memorabilia should best be displayed in the **'The Don Grainger Reading and Research Room'** at the RNHE.

NTZ looks forward to the official opening of the two new facilities at RNHE which are hoped to be completed early in 2014.

A magnificent and most generous donation of books has recently been made by Mrs E. Currie of Harare to the RNHE, for which we are most grateful and which will really enhance the library and collection immensely. A big thank you to Mrs. Currie.

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### **Historical Signatures at La Rochelle**

La Rochelle estate is the best known and most important of the Trust's properties. It is situated in the Imbeza Valley, Penhalonga in the mountainous eastern border area, some 280 km from Harare and 20 km from Mutare.

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The house was built by Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia Courtauld in 1951 as a retirement home, and it was donated to the National Trust in 1970. The Courtaulds established, with the professional help of a UK horticulturist, John Henry Mitchell, a unique botanical garden covering twenty hectares of land with exotic plants and trees gathered from all over the world. Within the natural woodland, walking trails were laid out and will be reopened. There are also collections of exotic and indigenous trees and shrubs, and other plants including indigenous palms and cycads. The original wild trees and bushes were carefully preserved and a dam was built for water plants and water fowl. Glass houses were built for Sir Stephen's orchid collection which today is enhanced by the Peter Horrock's collection of *Phalaenopsis* orchids.



#### *La Rochelle House and Gardens*

Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia soon became engrossed in the communities living around La Rochelle. They saw a great social need and established a school and home-craft industry for their workers. In 1964 they funded an agricultural training school named Kukwanisa in the Tsonzo area of Nyanga, initially an outstandingly successful venture but which was destroyed during the war years.

As a patron of the arts, Stephen gave funds for the building of a well-equipped theatre in nearby Mutare which was eventually named the Courtauld Theatre. Further gifts to the Town included the construction of Queen's Hall and a pavilion at the showgrounds. They also funded the land and building costs for a multi-racial Club known as the Rhodes Club in Mutare.

Turning to national needs in Harare, the generous couple helped to establish the National Art Gallery, the concert hall at the College of Music and contributed to the newly-opened University. They also endowed the Bulawayo Theatre and the National Gallery and the College of Music in Harare, but in general the Courtaulds were modest about their support of the country, so that few people knew of their generosity.

A leading Professor of Architecture described their home as follows:

“La Rochelle is a rare example in Africa of a major early Modern Movement (in architectural terms) private house, and almost unique in Zimbabwe, given the quality of its architectural detailing and of its interior decoration, especially in the Fantasia room and the Peacock cottage.”

When the Courtaulds lived at La Rochelle, it was a Mecca for important local and overseas people from all walks of life, including artists and film stars, influential politicians and their own family members. Most of these visitors were asked to

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engrave their signatures with a diamond-tipped stylus on the two large end windows, as well as on two side windows. These still exist, and so now are of great historical importance.



*The Lounge showing one of the Engraved Windows in the Background*



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## *The Original Engraved Window*

Deciphering and recording all the signatures on the windows has been on the wish list for the NTZ for many years and in November 2013 we are happy to announce that a new compilation of the signatures has now been made. This was undertaken by Ms Heather White, an Australian living in Harare at present, where her husband works at the Australian Embassy.

Heather was assisted and guided in this work by Darrel Plowes: a very knowledgeable long-standing member from the NTZ Mutare Committee who knew the Courtaulds personally and spent a lot of time at La Rochelle with them. Darrel's input was invaluable as he has much knowledge about and a deep insight into La Rochelle and the Courtaulds. Darrel had wanted to undertake this important historical project for a long time and was therefore very pleased to have Heather available and willing to do this as his own time is currently very limited.

Heather began the exercise of deciphering and recording the signatures on the inscribed windows by dividing each window into grid squares using strings 20 cm apart. She then recorded the signatures in each numbered grid. Between them Darrel and Heather were able to decipher most of the signatures. Back in Harare Heather put the data into a document, listing the signatures in alphabetical order as well as by grid square and the date where this was present. The next step will be to undertake research into each signatory and compile an account of who they were.

It has been suggested that the names of the signatories are later displayed on a poster, perhaps grouped under headings like, "Film Star", "Politician", "Artist", "Relative" etc., with the name of the signature, any date, and also a table to show where the signature is located on the window pane.

The signatures cover an interesting period in the history of this country, and they may provide an insight into what facilitation role the Courtaulds played in this transformation.

The NTZ would like to thank Heather very much for all her input so far on this important project. Her assistance has been greatly appreciated. We are pleased to say that Heather has agreed to act as a central coordinator for the project while further work is being carried out after which the NTZ will publish the important information in a document. (Anyone who may be able to assist can contact Heather through the NTZ.)

## MURAWAH'S HILL – MUTARE

Positive efforts are on-going with regard to funding for this project. If any members can assist with ideas for fund-raising, or if you know of possible sponsors, please contact us on the address/email address/phone numbers in the newsletter.

## WORLDS VIEW – NYANGA

Committee members are involved in securing the area from cattle before the protea collection/planting of young plants takes place. We are indebted to the committee members and residents in the area who are always willing to help the NTZ with this beautiful site.

## 4. INTO CONFERENCE – ENTEBBE

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Pictures show the Chairman, Simon Molesworth, addressing the Conference which was held in Entebbe from the 30<sup>th</sup> September to the 4<sup>th</sup> October, delegates attending one of the many varied and interesting presentations and a shot of traditional performers which highlighted time off between presentations.

Our Chairman, David Scott attended the Conference and made a presentation on the NTZ entitled “Cultural Diversity for Responsible Development” *Unlocking our diverse potential* **The National Trust of Zimbabwe:** “Our experiences and some lessons learnt” for which we thank him as it is a great step forward in showcasing not only our country and what we have to offer, but the efforts being made by the National Trust of Zimbabwe and the Committee.

The NTZ will send out a separate newsletter in March covering the ICNT Conference in Uganda and David Scott’s visit to UK informing members about activities across the world.

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