



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 2 OF 2014

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1. MEMBERSHIP

We now have a total of 188 paid up members between Harare, Mutare and Nyanga and interest in the NTZ is growing as we are becoming more active with regards to marketing and publicity. We urge our current members to support the NTZ and share the newsletter and encourage more members to join the NTZ.

Arrangements are under way for the NTZ to have a website – thanks to the support of our fellow INTO members, as soon as this is up and running, we will send you the links so that you may access the new website and keep up with all the latest news!!!

2. UPDATE ON LOCAL PROPERTIES

RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

Extensions to the RHODES NYANGA MUSEUM are almost complete, increasing the display area by over 100%. Due to generous funding by DAP (Australia), through the Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe, and by the Don Grainger Memorial Trust, through Dr. Ines Grainger, the loft of the historic Rhodes’ Stables in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, is now accessible, and the former harness room is open to the public.

Heritage is precious: treasure it

Two stairways – internal and external – have been constructed (according to international heritage building regulations), and the floor of the loft re-enforced in order to utilise the space for displays and a children’s activity area. Insulation of the ceiling, installation of tube lighting and window panes have transformed the former animal fodder storeroom into a much-needed additional extension to the Museum. The loft has been named ‘The Petheram Room’ by the Museum Committee, in memory of Dick Petheram, author of the publication, “The History of Rhodes Nyanga Estate”, who was responsible for procuring the original Rhodes’ memorabilia and establishing the Museum in the 1970s for the National Trust of the then Rhodesia. The Petheram family is still involved in the progress of the Exhibition.

The Don Grainger Reading and Research Room (harness room) houses a rich collection of reference books donated by the Zimbabwe community and professionally catalogued. Apart from funds and person support, Dr Ines Grainger has donated her valuable collection of Don Grainger memorabilia to the NTZ for display in the Museum. Items include St. John, St. Lazarus and St. Constantine regalia and literature, medals, photographs of Rhodesian and Zimbabwean Olympic and Special Olympic teams, and pictures depicting some of the humanitarian projects initiated by the late Col. Don Grainger, and more recently, by the Don Grainger Memorial Trust.

Grainger was President of both the Council for the Blind, and the Zimbabwe Association for the Disabled and Paraplegics. He was Chairman of the Zimbabwe Leprosy Council, and Governor of Ranche House College for 33 years. Don was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary for the International Parliament for Safety and Peace, and accredited by the Government of Zimbabwe in 1995. It is an honour to bring to the notice of the Zimbabwean public, the work of a man who so modestly devoted his life to the people of this country.

The Grainger Room and Loft were officially opened on 26th April, 2014 by His Excellency, Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Matthew Neuhaus and Dr. Ines Grainger, at a ceremony attended by seventy guests. National Trust Chairman, Mr. David Scott, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed guests and introduced the speakers – Nyanga Committee Chairperson, Ambassador Neuhaus, Dr. Grainger and Forester Ngorima (Parks and Wild Life Authority). Gifts of Robert Soper’s book, “Terrace Builders of Nyanga”, were presented to the gentlemen and bouquets of protea to the ladies by members of the Nyanga Committee. The Committee was congratulated on the progress achieved over the past three years.

Following the speeches, Dr. Grainger cut the ribbon across the door of the Grainger Reading Room, and with Ambassador Neuhaus, unveiled the handsome copper plaque commemorating the Opening of the Extensions. The plaque is now in place above the staircase landing.

Visitors viewed the displays and then enjoyed an excellent tea served in the Wagon Shed – provided by the Rhodes Hotel and Members of the Museum Committee. Social interaction between members of all sectors of the Nyanga community and from Mutare and Harare, continued until well after dark!

The National Trust of Zimbabwe, particularly the Nyanga Committee, is grateful to the financers of the renovation projects – initially the Beit Trust, and recently the Don Grainger Memorial Trust and DAP Australia - for their contributions towards the preservation and conservation of the community’s national and cultural heritage, and the support of a gallery which aims at providing a connection between the past and the present.

Sadly the past month has shown a deficit in the coffers – owing to the lack of tourists and visitors in general. School groups and Colleges are encouraged to visit the museum, and entry charges are kept minimal. Covering expenses is a monthly challenge for the treasurer. We would ask all supporters of this project to spread the news that the RNHE is worthy of a visit!

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF RECENT EVENTS AT RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION



Figure 1 Address by Forrester Ngorima NPWLA



Figure 2 Address by Ambassador Neuhaus of Australia



Figure 3 Ambassador Neuhaus, Dr. Grainger and Edone A Logan cutting the ribbon for the Don Grainger Reading Room

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Figure 4 E A Logan holding commemorative plaque after the opening



Figure 5 Rhodes Hotel Manager, Peace, with Pine Tree Inn Manager, Guy Cary

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Figure 6 VIPs with bouquets of proteas

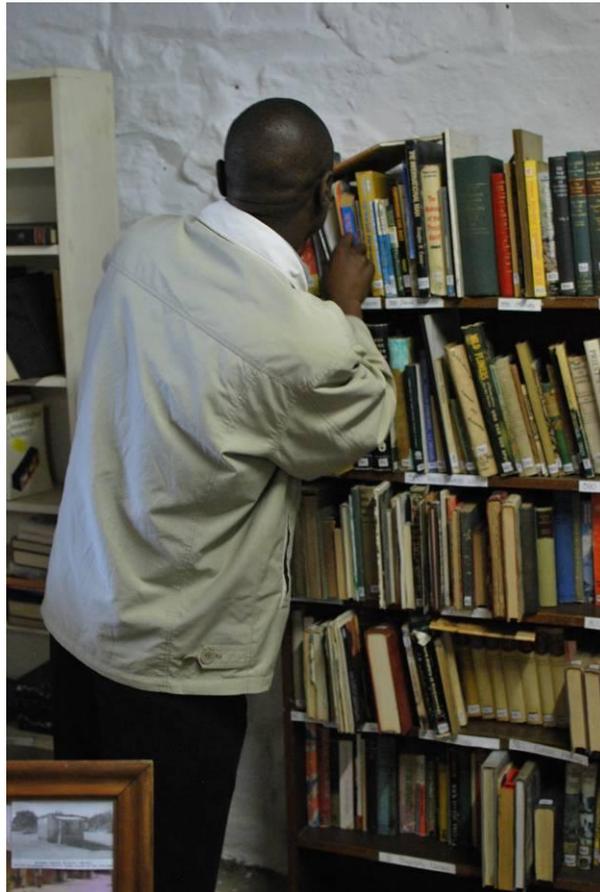


Figure 7 Visitor choosing a book in the Don Grainger Room

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Figure 8 Visitors viewing the Don Grainger Room

LA ROCHELLE

Work is well underway at our La Rochelle property and refurbishments of the main buildings and gardens are taking place at a rapid pace. We hope to have some photos of the property soon to send out to our members, together with a progress report. The hotel will be re-opening as soon as the refurbishments are completed – watch this space for further up-dates!

MURAWAH'S HILL

The Mutare committee is currently involved sourcing the finance for developing the site and building a small information/education 'centre' – as you will appreciate, everything revolves around funding these days! And we are grateful to those generous donors who enable us to make the progress that we do in order to improve our sites for the benefit of others and for them to appreciate our country's heritage.

WORLD'S VIEW

Great progress has taken place with regard to fencing and the planting of proteas and trees at the site – the Trust has a very active, dedicated and committed group of members who are responsible for all the maintenance and improvements and we look forward to increased visitor numbers to all our sites in the future.

There are a number of newly planted aloe cuttings which have been planted and doing well. If anyone has any to donate, we will be grateful for any cuttings.

Pine seedlings have been ordered for one section of the site, and a fence and new water tank have been erected, with work about to commence on a new sculptors' shelter.

The Kirstenbosch Protea Collection will eventually be planted out in a newly landscaped rocky section with safe walkways, stone pathways and wooden handrails for the steeper sections.

We appeal to visitors to sign the Visitors' Book with comments regarding our efforts!!!

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Figure 9 Council members and staff at Worlds View

3. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – Czech National Trust Launches in London



Czech
National
Trust



New meaning to old values

The Czech National Trust launches in London

The Czech National Trust was officially inaugurated on 18th June 2014 at a formal dinner at the Reform Club in London, attended by HE The Czech Ambassador Mr Michael Zantovsky, representatives of Parliament and the Czech Government, and many distinguished members of the international heritage community, including Sir Simon Jenkins, CEO of the National Trust.

Messages of support were received from HRH The Prince of Wales; the Austrian Ambassador to the United Kingdom Emil Brix; Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General of the National Trust; Simon Molesworth, Chairman of the Executive Board of the International National Trusts Organisation; and many others.

The Czech National Trust is modelled on the principles established by the National Trust here in the United Kingdom and its aim is to preserve and restore buildings, gardens and landscapes of historical importance in the Czech Republic.

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Dr Irena Edwards, Chairman of the Board, said: “It is so important that we raise awareness of and passion for these sites in the local communities, so that local people can adopt them and start volunteer movements to preserve them for future generations.” She also emphasised that many of the sites are of international importance and the Trust would work to raise money through international sponsorship as well.

Eva Zallmannova, General Director of the Czech National Trust, introduced the Trust’s pilot project: the restoration of the tomb and chapel of Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach near Kromeriz in the south-east of the Czech Republic. “The Czech National Trust aims to complete the repair of this exceptional memorial by 2016 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of death of this remarkable woman – one of the most important writers and thinkers of her generation.”

For more information please contact Czech National Trust, o.p.s.

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About Czech National Trust

The Czech National Trust is modelled on the principles established by the National Trust in the United Kingdom and its aim is to preserve and restore

buildings, gardens and landscapes of historical importance in the Czech Republic through sponsorship and volunteer work, creating sustainable sources of income from their use and encouraging community involvement.

The Aims of Czech National Trust (CNT)

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- Finding new sources of funding for the reconstruction of heritage properties, their contents, gardens and parks, and historical landscapes under the renowned brand of the National Trust.
- Lobbying for change of the onerous laws that impede owners and managers of the historical properties from raising money for their upkeep and management in such a way that the properties may become part of the living community around us.
- Connecting interests of all existing organisations active in the heritage area in the Czech Republic and enabling the development of an effective voluntary and donor culture towards heritage rescue and care, regardless of its ownership.
- Internationalising and connecting the education and training of managers and directors of heritage sites and their contents, experts, young professionals and volunteers - regardless of the property ownership.
- Installing awareness and pride in the local communities and encouraging them to adopt these sites, and starting the grassroots movement to preserve them for future generations
- Significantly progressing the perception of CNT as a "safe pair of hands" which would give owners the confidence to leave the property to CNT to administer, champion, or own for the benefit of the nation.

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