

ZimTrader

Dispatches

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Heritage is Precious: Treasure It

By Sharon Waterworth

This is the mandate of the National Trust of Zimbabwe (NTZ) established in 1960 by the National Trust Act.

The mission statement of the NTZ is: '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.'

The NTZ is run by a dedicated hardworking team of volunteers. An Executive Council acts as the overall governing body and four regional committees manage their portfolio of properties, i.e. membership, sales, marketing, finance, media and so on. The NTZ is responsible for securing its own funding. The Trust manages the following seven sites which are a mixture of built and natural environment:

Manicaland: Fort Gomo is a small stone fort is located at the top of a hill typical of the many fortifications in the eastern half of Zimbabwe with an attractive area of Miombo woodland and broken granite terrain. There are 360 degree views from the summit;

La Rochelle Country House and Spa. The estate consists of 108 ha with a French style tower and house, with Welsh slate roof tiles, built by Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia Courtauld in 1951 as a retirement home. A leading Professor of Architecture described it 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. Today it is a boutique hotel;

Murahwa's Hill is a large granite hill named after a local Headman Madekurahwa under Chief Mutasa who lived at the foot of the hill from around the second half of the 19th century before relocating further south in the Save Valley. Traditionally it was protected in the past as a place of spirits;

Rhodes Nyanga Historical Museum. The building is known as Rhodes Stables, built in 1897 for Cecil John Rhodes. It is a museum that houses a display of manuscripts, photographs and other exhibits of interest relating to Nyanga and persons and events connected with its history and development.

Worlds View is set high on a hill that affords stunning views of the surrounding landscape. From an altitude of 2000m the escarpment drops 600m to the plain below. There is a Toposcope with numerous plaques of black granite around the perimeter with radiating lines indicating the direction and direct distance to thirty cities, towns and places of interest;

ecimens of Acacia species. The Sebakwe River flows through the property and the poort (gorge), is an impressive sight.



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Matabeleland: Mabukuwene consists of 12 hectares of indigenous trees and plants. It has a view point built upon a rocky outcrop at 1, 422 metres above sea level. There are some 80 different species of indigenous trees including some particularly fine specimens of Ficus and Euphorbia with many aloes and other succulents. The property has a long social heritage that extends back from at latest 250,000 years to the early colonial era.

Midlands: Sebakwe Poort is essentially an area of natural and unspoiled woodland comprising a large number of species of indigenous trees, including many fine sp

Activities offered at the various sites include the following:

La Rochelle Country House and Spa – The estate has a large unique botanical garden covering 20 acres of land filled with exotic plants and trees gathered from all over the world. The property has one of the finest orchid houses built in southern Africa filled with exotic, rare and indigenous orchids. There are hiking, biking and horse riding trails, boating, swimming, fishing, a petting farm for children, volley ball and croquet. Visitors are welcome to visit the new organic herb farm. The historic house offers beautifully appointed boutique accommodation and a spa with massage treatments. All rooms reflect the elegance of the Art Deco and 1920's era. Event hosting including conferences, weddings and company retreats. There are also camping facilities available;



Educational visits - School tours are very welcome. The NTZ wishes to highlight the importance of Zimbabwe's heritage, art and culture to its people and visitors;

Environmental – Birding, walking in indigenous deciduous woodlands and evergreen forests, plants, vines, fungi, mosses and ferns. There are mountain and garden walks, watching butterflies, beetles, moths and dragonflies. There is a Protea and Wild Flower Conservancy (Worlds View); Built cultural heritage - Includes: ruined stone-walled settlements, Iron Age settlements, livestock enclosures, lowland forts associated with the Shona Dynasties that postdate the Great Zimbabwe culture, rock paintings; old village remains, graves and various other stone and brick-built structures; There is also an art gallery at Worlds View and locally made stone sculptures available for sale.

What's On This Weekend

- 17 Mar Afdis Awards Ceremony** Reps Main Stage –6.30 p.m. All Reps Members and interested Members of the Public welcome to attend No Charge Come and support those who work so hard to entertain you during the year!!!
- 17 Mar, St Patrick Day:** The Jam Tree In Conjunction with The Mashonaland Irish Association, Entertainment By Fiddelicious , Djembe Monks Proceeds to Charity
- 17 Mar: Zimtriathlon** Trikidz, Trisports, Short Mini, Long Mini, Super-sprint (Quarter), Sprint (Half) and Standard open to individuals and teams – Mount Pleasant email us on info@zimtri.org visit www.zimtri.org for upcoming events
- 18 Mar Sunday All Day Hike** Mountain Club Of Zimbabwe: VENUE: Beautiful MONWE. Time permitting then we will drive to CHAPUKA CAVESWeather permitting - it will be a lovely day out meeting Place and time Sam Levy's Village - At the back of the Village opposite Pirelli Tyres 8.00am for 8.15am Departure LEADER: Patricia BARBER (0772 497033)
- 18 Mar Roger Brackley Half Marathon:** Borrowdale Country Club, 6am, Registration For Rodger Brackley Half Marathon 4.30pm – 7pm – Please Remember Registration On Sunday Will Cost You \$5.00 Extra Per Runner, Please Try To Register On Friday To Avoid The Extra Charge

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International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

The NTZ is part of the INTO which is a non-governmental group founded in 2007. INTO was established to promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of all nations for the benefit of the people of the world. INTO has close links with organizations such as: UNESCO, UNEP, ICOMOS, IUCN and Europa Nostra.

Currently, INTO represents about 55 million individual members and countless millions of visitors to sites and properties across more than 25 countries.

INTO are actively involved in various initiatives including conserving and enhancing existing built resources, most notably by the viable re-use of historic and older buildings, greening of existing building stock, and reinvestment in older and historic communities and managing land in a sustainable way.

Africa Regional Forum

In 2015 INTO established the Africa Regional Forum and NTZ is a full time member. The new INTO Africa group brings together a vibrant network of African Heritage Organisations that will share ideas and resources, develop a continent-wide voice, promote and influence on African cultural heritage matters. The NTZ holds the current Chair of the Africa Forum and will be hosting the inaugural conference in Zimbabwe later this year.

The NTZ continues to develop working relationships with other organisations such as National Museums Monuments Zimbabwe and National Gallery of Zimbabwe and societies such as Tree Life, Bird Life, History Society, Repts Theatre and Orchid Society that will help us in promoting Zimbabwe Heritage and sustainable environmental education. During our marketing, presentations and events other contacts were made including various corporates and embassies.

Membership

Why not become member of the NTZ today! The cost is only USD 15 per year. Membership has benefits both inside the country as well as around the world:

Zimbabwe

The Trust has a growing membership. Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Free entrance to NTZ properties in Zimbabwe
- Quarterly E-newsletter
- Discounted tickets for selected productions at Repts Theatres
- Free entry to National Gallery Zimbabwe;
- 10% off a Scottyphotography session;
- 10% selected rugs/throws Hayhill Weavers
- 10% off accommodation at La Rochelle Country Hotel
- Reciprocal membership with Bird Life Zimbabwe, Tree Society & History Society

United Kingdom

The NTZ has reciprocity with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the National Trust of Scotland. In terms of arrangements with these Trusts, members are entitled to free admission to all of the many outstanding National Trust properties throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland upon production of a valid National Trust of Zimbabwe membership card. This represents a considerable benefit to members of the Trust who visit the United Kingdom.

Worldwide

Through reciprocal arrangements with the National Trusts in Guernsey, Jersey, Barbados, Ireland, Malaysia, Bahamas, Bermuda and New Zealand and with the Australian Council of National Trust's, and the Stichting het Vrienden der Geldersche Kasteelen and Stichting het Geldersch Landscape in the Netherlands Trust members enjoy free admission to the numerous properties of the National Trusts in those countries.

For membership please contact: Helen Hyslop on 04 860202 or email info@ntoz.org.

Please visit our website for further information and download a membership form.

Please like us on Facebook. We look forward to welcoming you at one of our sites soon!



What's On Early Next Week

- 21 – 29 March: The Repertory Players**, in conjunction with THE SIGNS PRODUCTION COMPANY Present THE SIGNS at REPS Main Stage 7pm. Tickets \$12 with discounts Enquire at the Spotlight
- 24 March: National Institute of Allied Arts** presents, Eisteddfod Final Concert, Harare International School 6.30pm Tickets \$8
- 25 March: Eisteddfod Junior Highlight Concert:** Harare International School 11am All Tickets \$6.00
- 24 March, Tea Dance Senior Citizen Club** Corner Fife/Colquhoun Str. Music By Steve Theron. Entrance Fee \$5. Tea And Cake Provided. Entertainment By Debbie Fleming Dancers. For Booking Contact Lyn 740496/250093
- 25 March: The Marden Singers' Festive Celebration.** Zimbabwe's future young talent and Mardens' well-known singers can be heard during Holy Week in a one-hour concert featuring memorable classics from the great Bach, Handel, Wagner, Beethoven, Chesterton, St Luke and many more. Includes performance by soprano Roz Ribeiro. 3pm, Arundel School Chapel. Entry by donation, suggested minimum \$5, EcoCash available and refreshments served.
- 24 March: Bon Marché Walk-A-Robix** Don't miss the exciting Bon Marche Chisipite Walk-A-Robix. (Starting @ Bon Marche Chisipite) 6am Registration fee: T/Shirts Adults \$5, Kids \$3. Hat/Cap \$5

Eastern Highlands Events

31 March: Juliasdale Easter Fair. Claremont Golf Club. 10am – 4pm. (1km from The Montclair Hotel). Fun games and competitions for adults and children, full bar and catering by the Montclair Hotel in the Club House and lots of snack food including breakfast available at various stalls. Stalls with the very best locally produced arts and crafts, preserves and jams, wood/painted wood sculptures, tableware and ornaments; paintings; children's toys; beadwork products and processed /cured meats. Also, on sale, collectables and clothing ... and more! Live music with Alfonse Chui. Golf Games including a putting competition and a Chip & Put on No 9. Eastern Highlands Games with Toss the Caber, Shot Put, Discus, Javelin, Arm Wrestle and Tug o' War. Children's Activities with a coloring competition, scavenger hunt and face painting. Nyanga Garden Club will have a tea table with home produced confectionery and are putting on an informal Floral Art Display in the Club House. The arrangements will be judged by you, the public! If you would like to book a stall at \$10 for the day, please contact Naboth Muchopa on 0717 408 850 or Guy Carey 0776 835 481 or email cooljuliasdale@gmail.com.

Every Saturday 9 – 12 noon: Saturday Morning Market at Claremont Golf Club, Juliasdale: Just past Montclair Hotel on the right hand side. A beautiful venue to stop in when you're up in the mountains of the Eastern Highlands on a break. Wonderful views across the golf course to the mountains, friendly people and staff. A relaxing, convivial morning with great products and produce to take home. Always a variety of stalls selling products that are home- or artisan-made with care and quality, and many other goods. Claremont Golf Club (catering operated by Montclair Hotel) sell coffee, tea, sandwiches and breakfast, and there is a pub lunch menu and stocked bar in the Club House, swipe and Ecocash available. To book a stall, email chris.pocock2009@gmail.com or whatsapp 0772 306 390. Coming up for a short break? Take a stall for a single morning- you will be welcomed!

Eastern Districts Second Saturday of every month The Vumba Walk: These vary from Upper to Lower Vumba areas and occasionally into Penhalonga, Burma Valley, and Chimanimani. Many birders join in too. Usually hosted by a Vumba resident or venue such as Tony's Coffee Shop, Forest Hills Lodge, White Horse Inn or Botanical Gardens and walks often traverse private properties not always accessible by the public. Call 0779 408 557 for info.

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Bulawayo Help Network Charity Shop, Zonke Izizwe Shopping Centre: Open Thur, Fri, Sat 9am-2pm. Lots of lovely stock and all in a good cause, gift vouchers avail, info call 09 67085.

SPCA Bulawayo Shop now has Ecocash! We have a selection of decorated Xmas trees and decorations! Plus lots of good novels and other lovely bargains. PLEASE donate your unwanted goods for resale to raise funds to keep SPCA going! **Hours:** Mon 2-3.45pm, Tues and Thurs 9am-12pm, 1.30pm-3.15pm, Wed 9am-12pm, 2pm-3.45pm, Fri 9am-12pm, 1.30-3.15pm, plus First Sat of each month 9am-10.45am.

2018 School Terms

- First Term ends 28 March
- Half Term 16 to 19 Feb.
- Second Term - 8 May to 9 August -
- Half Term 22 to 25 June.
- Third Term - 11 Sept to 6 December -
- Half Term 19 to 22 Oct.

Indigenous Tree Seedlings for Sale

Ready for Planting, Pod Mahogany, Red Mahogany, Mchibi, Brown Ivory, Pink Ivory, African Ebony, Camel Thorn, Mopani, Paper Bark Acacia, Buffalo Thorn. From Olive Grove.
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0712 631 126. olive.grove1@yahoo.com

2018 Public Holidays

- Fri 30 March to Mon 2 April inclusive – Easter
- Wed 18 April - Independence Day
- Tuesday 1 May - Workers' Day
- Friday 25 May - Africa Day
- Monday 13 Aug - Heroes' Day
- Tuesday 14 Aug - Defence Forces Day
- Saturday 22 Dec - Unity Day
- Tues and Wed 25 & 26 December - Christmas
- Tuesday 1 Jan 2019 – New Year's Day.