



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 3 OF 2014

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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Dear Members and other NTZ Stakeholders,

This newsletter marks the end of a very exciting 12 months within NTZ and much progress has been achieved in difficult circumstances!

There is, as always, still a lot more to do, so we need your ongoing support!! Please encourage others to join NTZ. Increasing membership numbers (both individuals and corporates) makes a very big difference in a variety of positive ways for NTZ. We continue to look for new members and for members who are willing to join the NTZ Council or to offer specialist services as “technical advisors” on an ad hoc basis. The NTZ Council has met regularly during this past 12 months and we are open to constructive ideas and suggestions at any time for the improvement of NTZ’s position, its responsibilities and the ongoing development of NTZ’s activities and properties.

Significant progress has been made on the establishment of an NTZ website with the involvement, support and input of the technical team at INTO. The facebook page has been updated and is available to access now. We are due to complete our 5 year strategic plan shortly, and we are already actively following a 3 year marketing plan aimed at raising the profile of NTZ, encouraging the support of NTZ/its properties and its programs. We wish to increase NTZ’s activities available to members and therefore enhancing membership benefits.

Heritage is precious: treasure it

A remarkable transformation has occurred at La Rochelle in the last 6 months or so. The buildings have undergone a significant refurbishment/urgent maintenance project and new furnishings and fittings are being installed. Progress continues on the refurbishment project with the main objective to get the property re-opened ASAP (now likely to be in early 2015).

The Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition was extended (the loft was opened up, thereby doubling the size of the museum floor area) with support from the Australian Embassy and the **Don Grainger Foundation**. The museum is now well on its way to offering a lot of interesting exhibits to visitors covering numerous topics and which the Committee will continue to add to as the loft area is developed. The Museum recently was awarded \$1 000 (against international competition), under the INTO Small Grants Program to develop a youth education program at the museum.

If you have not visited World's View at Nyanga recently, take the opportunity to do so, it is looking magnificent and programs to continue developing the site are well in hand.

May I, on behalf of your NTZ Council, wish you and all your friends and families a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2015. Please take care on the roads if you are travelling and return home safely.

With kind regards and best wishes

David Scott

(NTZ Council Chairman)

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1. MEMBERSHIP

To date the membership numbers are as follows:- Harare 121, Mutare 64, Nyanga 29 – total 214 – looking better and better as time goes by – please encourage friends and family to join us. Remember the valuable reciprocity agreement with other National Trusts worldwide, especially if you are visiting Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom – your local NTZ membership card in hand will save you a lot of money when visiting other properties! Not to mention local bonuses from REPS and Scotty Photography.

2. UPDATE ON LOCAL PROPERTIES

LA ROCHELLE – Work in progress – the very extensive work on refurbishing the property is almost complete and the main La Rochelle building and surrounds are looking fabulous – the gardens in the front of the main building have been re-laid, new roses planted, and all blooming as we go to 'press' and looking gorgeous. Refurbishment of the reception area, the lounge, the bedrooms, kitchen and dining room is almost complete

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We are lucky to have the support of very knowledgeable folk who have donated generously of their time and dedication to ensure that the property is restored to its deserving former glory – we have secured a number of photographs of Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia which will soon be framed and hung and there are also prints of original paintings once held at La Rochelle by Sir Stephen on the way from the United Kingdom.

“Historical displays/pictures etc. – Bruce Mennell has done amazing work to acquire copies of photos of the LR house in 1957, for which we are extremely grateful. He also advises that a list of art works held by Sir Stephen while at LR is being compiled at present with assistance from the Courtauld Foundation. The option is to make copies of these art works for future display purposes at LR.”

If you are planning to visit the area, please pop in and see the difference! The gardens are still open to the public and the property continues to attract wedding functions.

The hotel will be re-opening within the next few months – for all bookings and enquiries please contact Ross Whiting on ross@acumenafrica.com

MURAWAH'S HILL – It is hoped that work will soon start on the building of an information and display area to improve access for schools' visits and other visitors to this site to appreciate the historical and natural heritage it has to offer.

We are currently looking for funding around \$6,000 - \$7,000 to complete this exercise, if anyone has any ideas for raising this amount – please let us know!

WORLD'S VIEW – Good progress is being made at the site and we welcome visitors to the area to take the time to spend here enjoying the scenery and the beauty.

Mountain Acacias and proteas have already been planted and we hope to be able to source a small pot-bellied stove on which to boil water for folk to make a cup of hot tea or coffee – or just to warm themselves up when it can be pretty chilly up there in the cooler months!

Visitors are urged to take photos of their visit and share them with us for inclusion on our Facebook page – send your photos to lingoncalves@zol.co.zw

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Trust-of-Zimbabwe/340040082696277>

Another batch of protea seeds has germinated and over time will be planted at the site, to create a stunning visual display of this plant which will flourish in its natural habitat. The Trust will be acquiring more indigenous shrubs and trees for the site in order to protect and nurture the local bird, butterfly and insect species.

Excerpts from the latest report from Worlds View:-

Planted proteas are doing well and it is thought casualty rates only 10%.

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200 seedlings from Kirstenbosh are in plastic pockets in a combination of pine bark and soil, and thriving.

The local carvers seem happy with the arrangement, and are experiencing some upturn in business.

School buses are now a frequent site there now, and a good source of income for the site's continued maintenance.



Over this weekend there was an almost constant stream of visitors, and I spoke to a few, who say they are impressed with the new feel of the place, and are more than happy with the charges levied. I often ask if they would welcome teas and coffees (on a limited scale) and I see strong support for this, though practicable only over long weekends etc, and more so when colder.



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The gallery is often commented on, and Gill and Helen feel more should be on display there, both for variety, and also for future income generation. Local rugs are a good example, as are jams and pickles etc.



Some healthy debate has arisen over the proposal to plant pines, and it needs to be clarified that there are commercial benefits, as well as perceived land usage benefits, that will arise from a well managed project of this nature, which will only take place on the lower slopes of the mountain.

Cattle incursions into the fenced area have now stopped.

Litter is down to a minimum, and the overall area is well serviced with bins, thanks to Guy Macillwaine. The extensive ruins on top of Worlds View Mountain are still intact, though some low level re-arrangement has taken place by a religious group who have all-night vigils there from time to time.

RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION - The biggest latest news is that our very active Edone Ann LOGAN has succeeded in her efforts in applying for a grant from INTO (international National Trusts Organisation).

“It is a great pleasure to write and let you know that your application to the INTO Small Grants Programme has been successful! The competition was very stiff with a much larger number of applications received than previous tranches but the Committee gave your project to develop children’s craft activities to attract schools and families the highest score. Congratulations!”

BRAVO! Edone!!!! And many thanks for all your hard work and efforts.

3. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – The NTZ is hoping to send two delegates to the INTO Conference in September 2015 – details of the venue and theme will be circulated when we have them to hand.

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4. GENERAL

Our website will be up and running soon – we will let you know when it's ready to access!

The NTZ Strategic Plan and Annual Report will be ready in the New Year.

Our FACEBOOK page is now quite active with up to date news and photographs, we encourage those of you with access to use it. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Trust-of-Zimbabwe/340040082696277?ref=hl>

If you are visiting any National Trust properties, please be generous with photographs of your visit and share them with us for inclusion on our FB page with names and comments!

For those of you who are not aware of what happened on Robert Mugabe Road (ex Manica Road) at the beginning of October:

A small building approximately 100 years old was demolished by a Chinese company. Known in its day as the Central Tea Room, this has been a real blow to the dedicated people who are volunteering their time and effort into preserving and protecting this tangible heritage.

Correspondence has been sent to the Town Clerk, Dr. Godfrey Mahachi. It is sincerely hoped that nothing like this will happen again in the future. The NTZ has a sub-committee (Harare Heritage Houses) which is endeavouring to have all these historical buildings classified and protected and the authorities ARE aware of the value of protecting them as part of the national tangible heritage.



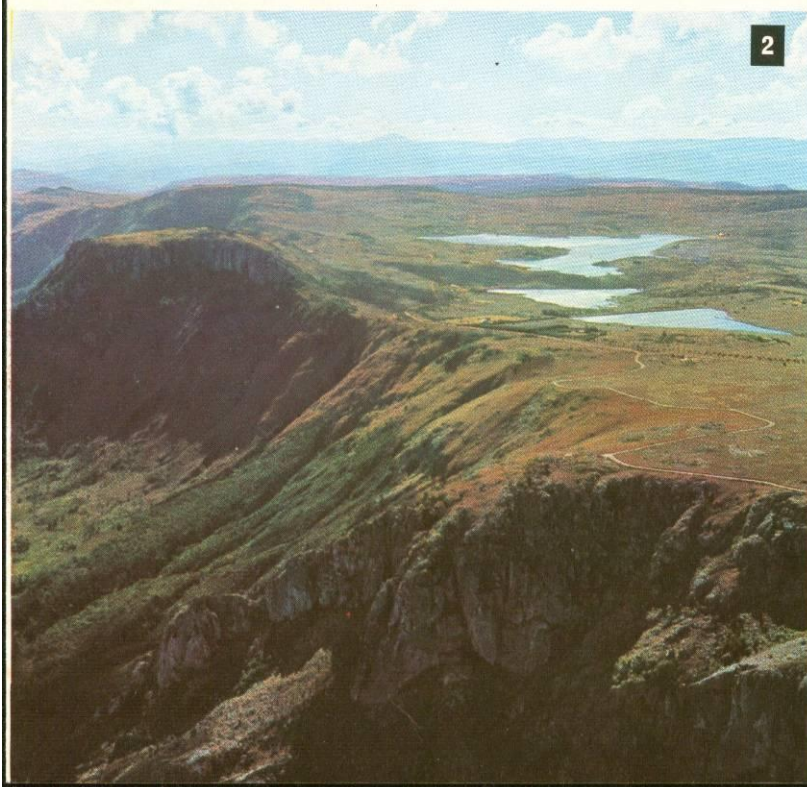
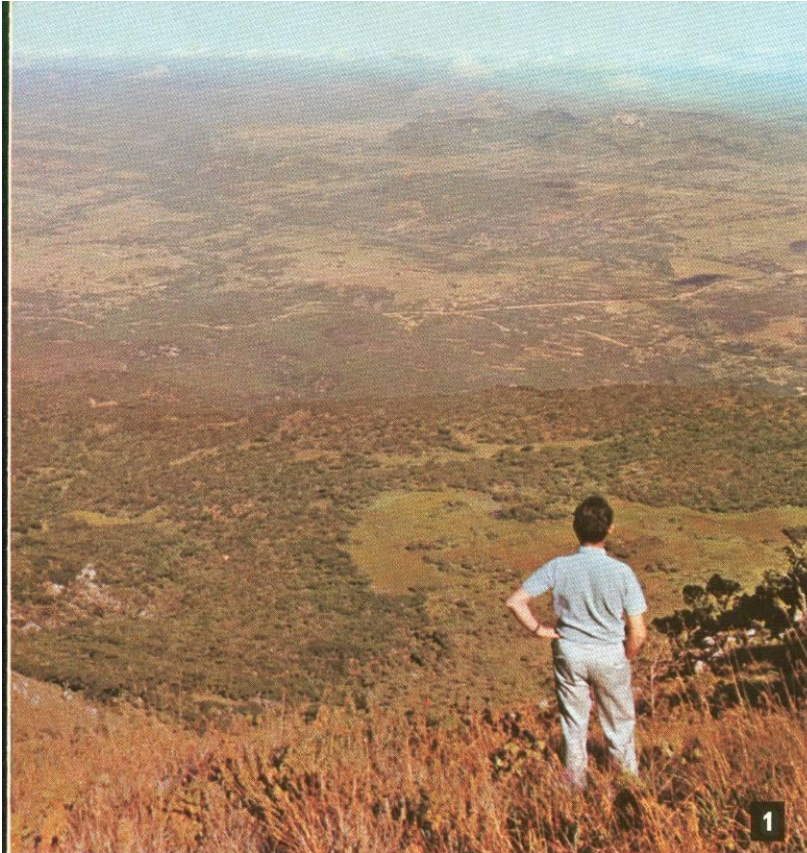
Circa 1920's



12th October 2014

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5. A TRIP DOWN MEMORY
LANE



RHODESIA'S NATIONAL TRUST

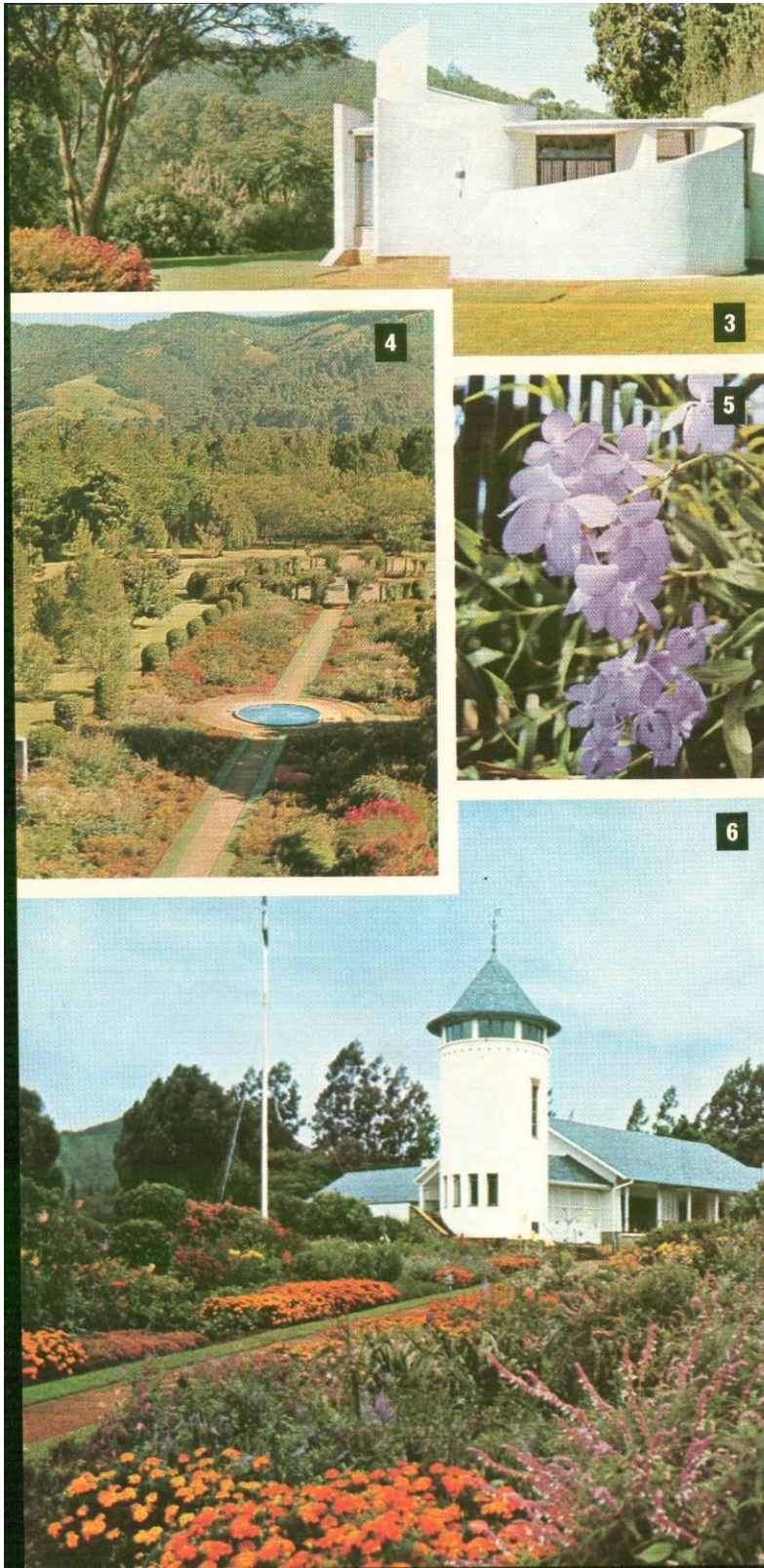
THE National Trust of Rhodesia is an independent statutory body. It holds in trust, maintains and preserves, for the benefit of the people of Rhodesia, property, buildings, fauna, flora, and objects of any description which have a national archaeological, historical or aesthetic value or interest. These properties or objects are donated to the Trust by individuals, companies, local councils, or the Government, and are made available for public recreation, entertainment, interest or instruction. The principal Trust properties, shown in these pages, are also numbered amongst Rhodesia's tourist attractions.

World's View, Inyanga

Among Rhodesia's many magnificent scenic panoramas, World's View, Inyanga (picture 1), stands supreme. It is situated on the western edge of the Inyanga Mountains, where the ground falls almost sheer for a thousand metres (picture 2). The Trust holds 92 hectares of this magnificent escarpment country, adjacent to the Connemara lakes. The area also includes the remains of an ancient fort.

The viewpoint is situated opposite the first lake in picture 2, and the fort is strategically positioned on the steep hill above. World's View is reached by a gravel road that winds up through the hills

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for 7 km from Troutbeck, which in turn is 20 km from the Warden's office in the Rhodes Inyanga National Park.

Another Trust property within the Inyanga area is Cecil Rhodes's stables, built adjacent to the great man's holiday home, now the Rhodes Inyanga Hotel. These are almost unaltered since their construction in 1896.

La Rochelle, Penhalonga

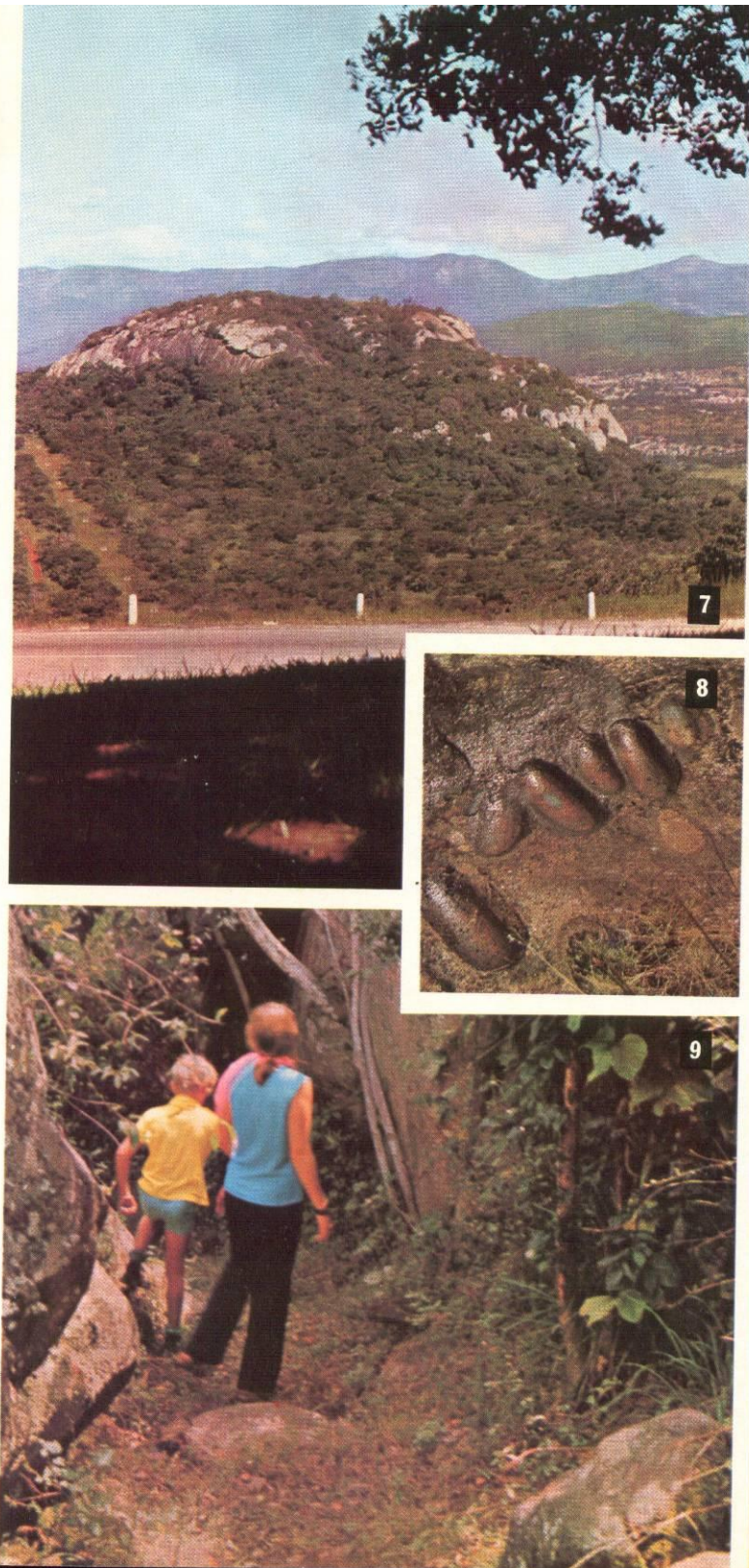
La Rochelle is the beautiful home of those well-known philanthropists, the late Sir Stephen and Lady Courtauld, and is situated 13 km from Umtali, on the old Penhalonga road. The property was bequeathed to the Trust in 1973, and consists of the main house (picture 6), "Fantasy", Lady Courtauld's cottage in the grounds (picture 3), and 14 hectares of gardens. These gardens include rare trees, aloes, a collection of orchids (picture 5) and ornamental shrubs.

The grounds display a variety of formal gardens (picture 4) and careful landscaping, and there are numerous water gardens, waterfalls and fountains — all within the beautiful setting of the wooded hills forming the Penhalonga Valley. The main house, with its attractive tower will be used for conferences and seminars, while Lady Courtauld's "Fantasy" houses a famous collection of sea shells from all over the world.

The Trust has completed a luxury chalet in the grounds, and this may be rented by tourists, and a tea room has been constructed to serve day visitors. An admission charge of 25 cents per adult and 5 cents per child is charged for admission to La Rochelle.

Another Trust property in the Penhalonga area is Fort Goma Kadzoma. These ruins are situated near the roadside,

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32 km from Umtali on the Penhalonga road. From a sign-posted layby and picnic site, a gentle, winding path leads to the fort, from which views of the Penhalonga Valley may be enjoyed.

Murahwa's Hill, Umtali

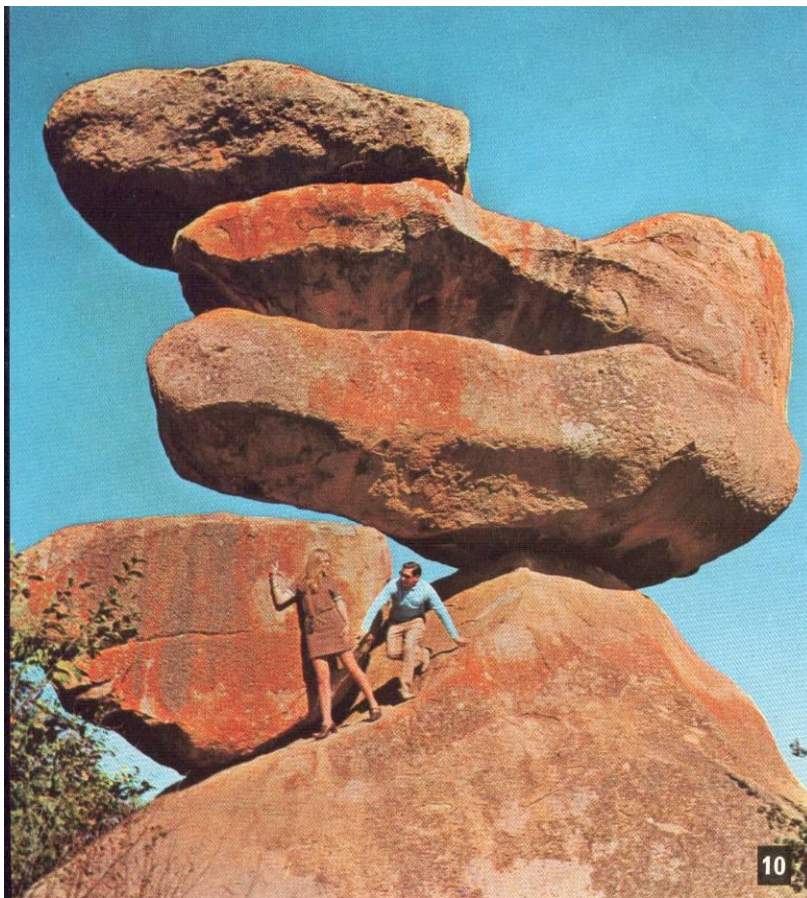
Overlooking the Eastern Highlands city of Umtali, and clearly visible from the summit of Christmas Pass, is Murahwa's Hill (picture 7), which at first glance is a typical Rhodesian kopje. However, this Trust property, presented by the City of Umtali, is a treasure house of fauna, flora and bird life.

Archaeological excavations on the hill have also revealed evidence of a settlement which had links with the Zimbabwe culture, and the remains of a village protected on three sides by immense granite rocks may be seen today, although the artefacts found have been removed to the Umtali Museum. The quern stones (picture 8), where the grinding of corn was undertaken are evidence of a long occupation. In a cave near to the village site are rock paintings, which tell of an even earlier settlement of bushmen.

The variety of trees to be found here is unlikely to be rivalled anywhere else in Rhodesia, and the observant may also find several species of wild orchids.

The steep approach from just below the motel at the foot of Christmas Pass is mainly used by enthusiastic students of the flora and the bird life of Rhodesia. For the not so energetic there is an approach from the rear of the Umtali showgrounds, giving access to gently sloping paths meandering through the trees and shrubs (picture 9), a focal point being a bird-bath where many species of birds may be observed.

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Balancing Rocks, Salisbury

Granite rock formations are almost a national emblem of Rhodesia, and are one of the most interesting features of the country. One of the most concentrated areas of formations close to Salisbury is known as the Balancing Rocks, and is situated 13 kilometres south of the city on the Widdecombe road.

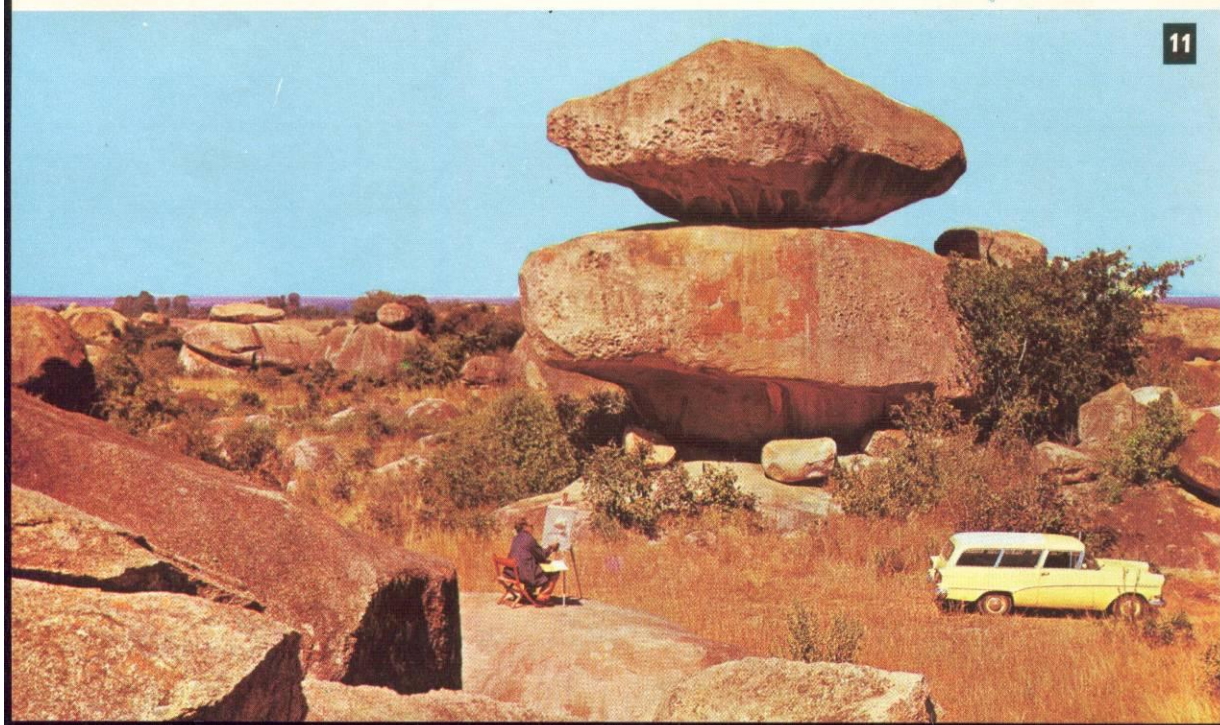
The Trust has fenced off 40 hectares of the most outstanding rocks, and a small network of paths and roads leads the visitor past these immense features. The largest, and most spectacular, feature is over 12 metres high (picture 10).

The abstract sculpture of the time-weathered rocks provides a challenge for the modern artist (picture 11) or the photographer.

FURTHER INFORMATION on the National Trust of Rhodesia may be obtained from the Secretary, P.O. Box HG. 370, Highlands, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

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All that remains is to wish you, one and all – a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas

and every good wish for the New Year 2015!

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