



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

HERITAGE NEWS

VOL 2 OF 2018

Please note that the NTZ AGM will take place at 3:30pm on Wednesday 26th September 2018 at #3 Brentwood Avenue, Mount Pleasant, Harare.

NTZ PROPERTY News

WORLDS VIEW

The site is looking splendid and continues to impress its many visitors.

Archeologist/Teacher/Historian/Editor, Mr. Rob Burrett, after a visit to RNHE and World's View in April, 2017.

"Since my last visit in April 2014 the RNHE has expanded by leaps and bounds, both in quantity of material displayed and the quality of its content. It is becoming one of the more important historical depositories in the country. The team that has put it together must be commended for an excellent job. I was delighted to see the large number of visitors who were there the day I visited it (Easter Saturday 15th April 2017). It was diverse in ethnicity and age. The interest being shown by the African population is especially gratifying. We hope that this will encourage them to become more actively involved as this heritage belongs to us all and their engagement will ensure the long-term viability of the project".

We thank Rob Burrett for his encouragement and advice, and financial assistance when most needed.

In June Rob Burrett again spent time in the area, partly assisted by SOLON Foundation, undertaking field work at some isolated Nyanga schools, and speaking to teachers and senior students on the importance of their cultural heritage. He was able to explore heritage sites and give advice on protecting the sites.

The NTZ is proud to have had articles published in Zimtrader – 'Seat with a View' on the World's View site being one of them.



One of the very spectacular Tea Tree bushes thriving at the World's View site







A very hazy view at this time of the year over Nyanga village from World's View

RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

Another of our prime sites, the Historical Exhibition continues to interest many diverse visitors.

Grateful thanks to the Chairlady of the Mutare W.I. for the generous donation of a large collection of Rhodesiana books from the CRAWFORD family.

And many thanks too, to Rob Burrett for his donation of various papers on the vegetation in Nyanga.

The museum recently hosted the Jonathan Matimba (1940-2013) Sculpture Exhibition, featuring some of his works done over a number of years.

Here is a small selection of some of the works on display.















Previous 4 photos show (a) Naboth Machopa introducing Jonathan Zilberg (b) modern Nyanga works of art by R. Musokiwa, A. Chidora and M. Sande (c) Dr. Zilberg discussing young carvers' work by the Nyanga Craft Village and (d) Chairman welcoming members of the Matimba family.

For more on this exhibition, please see: <http://ntoz.org/properties/rhodes-nyanga-historical-exhibition/>

The winning videos from the African Schools Heritage Club 'Heritage Education' competition have been posted onto the INTO website:- <https://intoorg.org/30236>

WORLD HERITAGE DAY – 18TH April 2018 - This year's theme is 'Diversity and Inclusion' an article about how the Museum has become more inclusive in its displays and approach.

'You are invited to Step back into History: Zimbabwe Timeline' – is the article appearing in the Zimtrader Magazine – about the timeline which is now on display in the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition.

Also in the Zimtrader Magazine, 'Heritage is Precious: Treasure It' about the NTZ and 'Connect with the Present and the Past' about the Museum.

LA ROCHELLE

For an up-to-date article on the organic herb project at La Rochelle, please see –

<https://intofarms.org/la-rochelle-country-house>

Celebrating Womens' Day (8th March 2018) about Lady Virginia, please see - <https://intoorg.org/programmes/iwdhe>

The La Rochelle Country House and the surrounding gardens and botanical collection draw a number of visitors and also to its organized themed weekends.

A great attraction for artists, garden lovers, orchid enthusiasts, birders and people merely wanting a relaxing break away from the city; the Centre is finding its niche and fast becoming a very popular venue and destination for visitors.

The Benefits of Organic Farming

By Sharon Waterworth, Vice chair, National Trust of Zimbabwe



Calendula



Stinging nettles

Farmers today are under pressure to meet the demands of a rapidly growing global population whilst operating in increasingly challenging environmental conditions. It is more important than ever to ensure both food security and environmental sustainability not only for our generation, but generations to come. To achieve food security whilst safeguarding ecosystem stability, there must be a widely shared appreciation of agriculture as a multifunctional strategic land use that can provide: nutritious food, rural development and employment, environmental management, and the sustaining of cultural heritage of agrarian communities.

Organic farming is a technique, which involves cultivation of plants and rearing of animals in natural ways. This process involves the use of biological materials, avoiding synthetic substances to maintain soil fertility and ecological balance thereby minimising pollution and wastage.

ORGANIC FARMING HAS MANY SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS INCLUDING:

ENVIRONMENTAL

Many changes observed in the environment are long term, occurring slowly over time. Organic agriculture considers the medium- and long-term effect of agricultural

interventions on the agro-ecosystem. It aims to produce food while establishing an ecological balance to prevent soil fertility or pest problems. Organic agriculture takes a proactive approach as opposed to treating problems after they emerge.

IMPROVED HEALTH

Organic food contributes to better health through reduced pesticide exposure for all and increased nutritional quality. In order to understand the importance of eating organic food from the perspective of toxic pesticide contamination that pollutes the waterways from which we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat. Organic food can feed us and keep us healthy without producing the toxic effects of chemical agriculture.

SOCIAL

The various benefits of organic farming for small farmers all over the world include a high premium, low capital investment, the ability to achieve higher premiums in the market, and the ability to use traditional knowledge. Organic farming uplifts livelihoods in many rural communities for small scale farmers.

One of the best ways to ensure continual economic growth is to

enhance lasting social structures within the farming communities and the money therefore goes back into the local communities. Organic farming has been of great benefit to producers living in areas where a) there is not a lot of income and b) especially in the dry season.

In 2017, La Rochelle Organics, in partnership with Organic Africa, established 10 ha of field test trials of organic herbs in the eastern highlands. Organic Africa is the only company certified in organic fair-trade products in Zimbabwe. They are also the only company in southern Africa whereby its small scale farmers have their land certified. The certification means that their farmers produce high value crop (low volume) and are paid a premium price.

The herbal raw materials are grown, harvested and collected in a way that conserves nature so that the diversity of resources will continue to be available to future generations. Of great importance to La Rochelle Organics is responsible economic activity and they nurture long-term, fair relationships with business partners, insist on controlled, integrated cultivation and promote social and cultural projects.

To date, herbs being grown for export include organic chamomile, lemon balm, stinging nettle, safflower,



Caraway



Lemon balm

calendula, thyme, peppermint, lemongrass, chillies and paprika.

In addition, trials are still being conducted on the following: caraway, anise, fennel, ginger, turmeric, lavender, basil and lemon verbena. La Rochelle Organics invests a lot of time and money in undertaking research into identifying and developing potential commercial applications for indigenous under-utilised species. There are a large number of locally available plant species that could be used by small scale farmers, especially in the drier parts of Zimbabwe. They have tapped into the enormous potential of small scale organic production, processing and marketing of high value essential oils, herbs, spices, and medicinal plants.

They work extensively with all their producers to help them attain Ethical Biotrade, Organic and

Fairtrade certification. They train farmers to grow crops without using chemicals or fertilisers and how to make compost according to strict organic global regulations. Since September 2017, the farm has trained some 3889 farmers (2377 female and 1512 male). 46 of them comprised four farm managers and 42 contract farmers.

Looking forward, plans include the building of an Agribusiness Training Centre which will offer courses in sustainable organic farming for small scale farmers in southern Africa and will really give them a chance to understand and have hands on practice experience which will lead to more small scale farmers being trained at a high level. Needless to say, this is an exciting opportunity for all the organisations involved and for Zimbabwe.

HERBS AND HERITAGE

The surprise is that the organic farm is located on a National Trust of Zimbabwe heritage property, the La Rochelle Centre, well known for their luxury accommodation and spa. La Rochelle Centre also boasts one of the finest arboreta in southern Africa with some 400 varieties of trees from around the world as well as the prestigious Courtauld Orchid collection.

Established in 1960, the National Trust of Zimbabwe protects and manages seven properties which are held in perpetuity so that their future

SHAPING SUSTAINABLE MARKETS



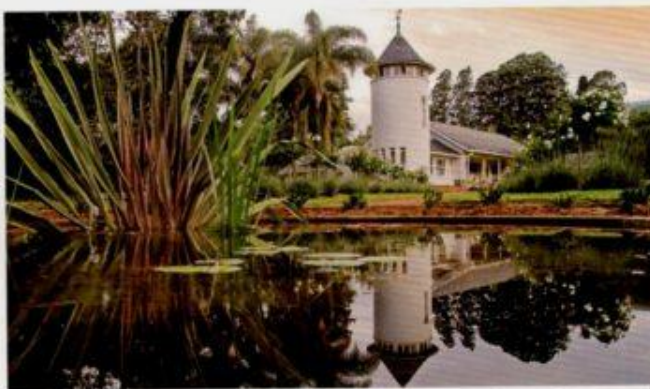
Chamomile

protection is secure for future generations to enjoy. In Manicaland, these are Fort Gomo, La Rochelle Country House and Spa, Murahwa's Hill, Rhodes Nyanga Historical Hotel and Worlds View. In Matabeleland, Mabukuwene and in Midlands, Sebakwe Poort.

The mission statement of the Trust is to be custodians of those properties and sites of cultural heritage and natural beauty which they hold in trust, maintain and manage them for the benefit and enjoyment of the friends and people of Zimbabwe. The Trust welcomes new members. For details, contact Mr C Hyslop on info@ntoz.org.

For further information, visit www.ntoz.org or visit and like the Facebook page.

Heritage is precious: treasure it.



La Rochelle property by Mike Dones Photography

Photographs provided by La Rochelle Organics

Refresh your mind, body and soul

Experience tranquility with the natural surrounding beauty of La Rochelle Country House and Spa in Imbeza Valley, Penhalonga, which has recently been upgraded. We now offer a wide range of treatments using African Apothecary products that are 100% organic and natural.

Treatments include: Swedish massage, hot stone massage, Indian head massage, facials and a deluxe manicure or pedicure.

Following your spa treatment you can relax by the newly-refurbished pool or take a stroll through the magnificent gardens. This historic house boasts one of the finest *arboretums in southern Africa with some 400 varieties of trees from all around the world, as well as, the prestigious Courtauld collection in the new orchid *biome.

Choose your perfect location to enjoy a drink or a delightful lunch on the veranda, in the Chinese Pergoda or relax with a picnic in the lush grounds.

The Pergoda, situated in the 20 hectare La Rochelle arboretum, is a tranquil venue for high-teas, luncheons or cocktails, set amongst exotic trees with a breathtaking view towards the forested mountains on the Mozambique border.

Indulge in high-tea with a refreshing Pimms or a gin and tonic - the perfect accompaniment to our Zimbabwean summer. Tour the new organic farm on the property and pick your own fresh garnish to accompany your sundowner or tea. A perfect end to a relaxing, uplifting day!

Take advantage of a weekend break with us at La Rochelle Country House and Spa. As well as the spa treatments and fine dining, guests can be with nature

amongst the roses, trees and more.

There is a swimming pool, fishing dam, pool table, orchid house and croquet lawn. There are three new hiking trails through the Miomba Woodland which can be used to go bird watching, mountain biking and hiking, if you are feeling energetic.

The spa is unusually located on a National Trust heritage property. Established in 1960, the National Trust of Zimbabwe, protects and manages seven properties which are held in perpetuity so that their protection is secure for future generations to experience.

Try something new, take the opportunity to relax and connect with nature. Make the trip, spoil yourself and enjoy some quality me-time.



*arboretum: a botanical garden devoted to trees

*biome: a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat



LA ROCHELLE



For further information, please visit www.ntoz.org or our Facebook page. To make a reservation, please e-mail reservations@larochellecentre.com or visit our website to find out more www.larochellecentre.com

Cleaning up of the site continues, with thanks to our Bulawayo team on the ground who are helping extensively in this regard. It is hoped that the site will soon be attracting many more visitors for its birdlife, the aloes and its historical value, not only for the Bulawayo residents but for other visitors spending time in this area.

INTO NEWS

Unfortunately, the INTO Africa Conference which had been scheduled for October, has had to be postponed. This however will enable NTZ to have more time to work on the Conference preparations.

Both our FACEBOOK page and website are quite active with up to date news and photographs, and we encourage those of you with FACEBOOK to like us.

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

<http://www.ntzimbabwe.org>

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 Facebook page or website with names and comments! If you have the time and are able to print an A4 sheet with "THIS PLACE MATTERS" on it, we would love the photographs of you at any one of the NTZ properties you may be visiting, holding the sign, which we will put on our website and Facebook to share with our National Trust friends the world over!!

Please share videos of our sites with us, or directly to our FACEBOOK page!!!

We have lovely strong cloth carry-bags for sale – NATIONAL TRUST OF ZIMBABWE – ideal for carrying books to your book club/library, or for that little bit of shopping – or knitting!

Heritage is precious: treasure it