



### 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 1 OF 2018

## NTZ PROPERTY News

### WORLDS VIEW

April the 14th and 15th saw members from the Executive Committee in Harare travel to Nyanga for two milestone events:-

World Heritage Day (WHD) is an annual event celebrated on 18 April of each year. It aims to preserve the human heritage and recognize the efforts of all relevant organizations in the field including the National Trust of Zimbabwe (NTZ). World Heritage is the shared wealth of humankind. Protecting and preserving this asset demands the collective efforts of the international community. This day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability. The NTZ celebrated WHD at World's View by unveiling the new Helen Hyslop Kopje area/stone/plaque – a fitting tribute to Helen who has done so much, for so many years, for the NTZ.

Helen joined the NTZ in 1993 and became a member of the Executive Council in 2003. She was Chair of the Rhodesia Association of University Women (1970 -1980). One of her major local achievements, at that time, with other groups was the lobbying for separate assessment for tax of female spouses in 1977. Helen was a regular member of International Federation of University Women's Council in Geneva, promoting graduate women's and feminist rights over that period. The University was established in 1919 and nearly 100 years later it continues to advocate for women's rights, equality and empowerment through the access to quality secondary and tertiary education and training up to the highest levels. The goal is for 100% of girls and women worldwide to achieve an education beyond primary school. Helen is an alumnus of University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.



Another big thanks to Mike Tucker for his generous donation of two benches, designed and made by Gary Goss which grace the Helen Hyslop kopje.

The professional services of Mr Jakob Raath to undertake an ecological study of the World's View area was commissioned. The overall aim is to have a database of ecological resources relevant to the area for posterity as well as being an aid in planning and making future recommendations for our site and environs.

Phase I, the pilot study, was completed in January. Jakob returned to site to complete Phase II mid March. The aims of Phase II were to expand on the activities begun earlier as well as collect plants not seen flowering at the time of Phase I. New areas of the NTZ environs were sampled and more data about the overall environmental health of the area were gathered.

In addition, an extra 2 volunteer days were spent removing the vegetation from the ruins above the carpark to expose the sections of walling for future archaeological work. The removal of the vegetation was done in a methodical manner, taking care to cause minimal impact. We had no idea of the extent of these 'on-site' ruins until Jakob, with the help of Matirina and Luke,

discovered that the ruins are much more extensive than first thought. We look forward to the return of Rob Burrett to take his archeological study further.

More of Jacob's finding on the adjacent land to the south of the World's View site, reveal that in this unique area a potential ecological disaster is in the making. Steps are being taken to have this area placed under protection.

## RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

International National Trust Organisation:

Nyanga Schools 'Youth Linking Minds Across the Continent'

Cultural Heritage Competition

The Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition (RNHE) was buzzing with excitement early on Sunday 15th April; guests started arriving at 9 am to attend the award ceremony and view the wonderful and informative Museum Exhibits.

As part of the global family of National Trusts (INTO), the National Trust of Zimbabwe (NTZ) participated in a competition entitled 'Heritage Education: youth linking minds across the continent' which was aimed at creating spaces for intercultural learning from various parts of Africa. Students were invited to submit a short, original video clip showing the world their unique heritage.

The competition was organised in Zimbabwe by the SOLON Foundation represented by Mr Willie Dhandhlara and RNHE in collaboration with the NTZ and INTO. The response to the competition call was very good with 33 entries submitted.

Mrs Merle Moore (Vice chairman) opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone to the event.



Mr Dhlandhlara then gave an introduction about Solon's participation and about the importance of cultural heritage education. He praised the schools for the content of their videos and he then proceeded to screen the top six winning entries.



Mr David Scott the Chairman of the NTZ then gave a keynote speech about the Trust's involvement in the competition and its background and he then acknowledged everyone who had been involved in executing the successful competition. He personally thanked Mrs Edone Ann Logan, Chair RNHE for her dedication to the project.

The prize-giving was conducted by Mr Scott, Mrs Edone Ann Logan and Mr Dhlandhlara. First prize was awarded St. Monica's High School for their 'Building a Traditional Hut' video.



Second prize was awarded to Nyatete Heritage Club for their 'The Secret of Nyatete Bush' video.





The three- runner up schools were Nyajezi Primary School, Nyamhuka Primary School and Zuvarabuda Primary School.

Mr Willie Dhlandhlara generously donated three books that were presented by Sharon Waterworth to students eager to receive them.





Students and teachers were treated to a super lunch courtesy of Mr W. Dhlandhlara who also provided transport.

A big thank you goes to the team at RNHE for organising the award ceremony and thanks also to Shirley Scott, Lin Goncalves, Jean Goncalves and Sharon Waterworth for taking and supplying the photographs.

Everyone present at the event was very proud of our young students! The NTZ would like to thank everyone for participating in such an exciting and interesting competition that highlighted the fascinating and rich heritage of Africa.

An enormous thanks must go to Mike Tucker for all his valuable assistance with the Timeline at the Museum. He helped with a tremendous amount of research and recording that provided

valuable information used in the Timeline which depicts salient historical events related to Zimbabwe during the period from BC to 1980.

New sign at the RNHE



## **Marshall Nyanhanda, the Curator**

### Diversity and inclusion at Rhodes Nyanga Historical Museum

The Trust is proud to say that it is listening and responding to the changing needs of its visitors. Realising that diversity and intangible cultural heritage is being lost and the world is becoming poorer in culture and wiping away the traces of history and local distinctiveness the Trust decided to start working to keep it alive, protect and promote it.

Over the past few years, at one of our sites, the displays at the Rhodes Museum have expanded and become more inclusive to the rich cultural diversity in Zimbabwe. There is a now permanent display of early Manyika culture along with pictures and stories associated with renowned Tribal Chiefs and various people who have played a significant part in the country's history. Traditional stone sculptures, pottery and woven mats are also a feature of the Museum.

The Museum has produced several heritage booklets including: Traditional Leadership and Shona Culture and in 2016 published a book entitled 'Nyanga's Rich Heritage' (Khami Press, Bulawayo). The book was co-edited by Mrs Edone Anne Logan and Mr Robert Burrett, Archaeologist and Historian. The book contains information on the many and varied aspects of the rich natural and social heritage of the area, and through knowledge and interest encourage a sense of pride and a wish to preserve this heritage. It is the authors hope that the book, which includes many historical black and white photographs, will serve as a historical reference for those interested in Nyanga – particularly the early pre-history period. Proceeds from sales of the booklet are generating funds for the Museum where it is on sale.

The Museum Committee, along with Marshall Nyanhanda, the Curator, continually work hard to organize various exhibitions that have included traditional customs of indigenous people portrayed by displays of relevant foods, tools, implements, and musical instruments. And, after making a very determined effort, last month committee members achieved the completion of the 'Time Line Project' which depicts salient historical events related to Zimbabwe during the period from BC to 1980.

The NTZ is actively encouraging schools to visit heritage sites in their area and experience hands-on traditional crafts, and most importantly, research their own family histories, collect stories from their grandparents, and find their own identities within their ethnic groups.

### Fort Gomo

Visit somewhere new!

The Trust has published a new leaflet for the Fort Gomo property to enhance visitors enjoyment. Please visit [www.ntoz.org](http://www.ntoz.org) to read about the history of the site, view images, and get the directions and GPS co-ordinates for the site.

## LA ROCHELLE

On a recent visit to La Rochelle, it was heartening to see the orchid collection flourishing with many specimens in bloom, including some of Sir Stephen Courtauld's original Vanda's and Cattleya's.



**This particular Phaphiopedilum was kindly donated by an anonymous donor and as you can see, it's thriving!**

## MABUKUWENE

Cleaning up of the site continues, with thanks to our Bulawayo team on the ground who are helping extensively in this regard.

Other donations:

Antonia Butcher, very kindly donated three pairs of gum boots. Antonia is a Bulawayo resident with a keen interest in environmental protection and preservation. On a visit to Mabukuwene she was so impressed with the work that is being undertaken of the clearing of alien vegetation at the site she asked if she could make a contribution. We are very happy that she did.

Birdlife's visit to Mabukuwene – the Birdlife Zimbabwe group from Bulawayo visited Mabukuwene in September last year and recorded 29 species on their visit. We are looking forward to their next visit so that they may track the seasonal bird life visitors to the area.

#### Presentation to the History Society AGM

Living cultural heritage is being lost and the world is becoming poorer in culture and wiping away the traces of history and local distinctiveness. Realising this the NTZ decided to start working to keep it alive in Zimbabwe, to protect and promote it and undertook an innovative, experimental pilot project for school children to “re-discover their living traditions and identify their cultural roots”. The project was championed by Mrs Edone Ann Logan Chairperson of the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition and 132 children and 6 teachers were involved in the project.



Sharon Waterworth was invited to give a presentation at the HSZ AGM held in March about the successful project. The title of her presentation was: 'Receiving an Award for Cultural Heritage Education on the Beautiful Island of Bali'. Sharon was privileged to be one of three members from the Trust that attended in 2017 "Our Cultural Heritage, the Key to Environmental Sustainability", the 17th International Conference of National Trusts held in Bali, Indonesia. The

conference brought together 130 delegates from across the world who explored the connection between their cultural traditions and concerns for sustainable development.



International News

INTO turned 10! Please see our Facebook page for details of the celebrations.

Africa News

NTZ is busy with preparations for the inaugural Africa Forum Conference which is planned for mid-October. We are expecting a number of members from other African countries to attend.

NEW: Heritage Award

NTZ is launching an annual Heritage Award in celebration of World Heritage Day. The Award will be in the form of a floating trophy and will be presented to the person who has done remarkable work in the field of preservation of culture and heritage and made contribution in this regard to the country. We will announce the results of the inaugural recipient in the next newsletter.

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**