



**NATIONAL TRUST OF ZIMBABWE**  
**ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT: NUMBER SIX**  
**APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021**



*HERITAGE IS PRECIOUS – TREASURE IT*

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[www.facebook.com/pages/National-Trust-of-Zimbabwe](https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Trust-of-Zimbabwe)

**REGIONAL COMMITTEES**

**Mabukuwene**

Mr. Busani Bafana

**Nyanga**

Mr. Guy Cary

**Mutare**

Ms. Nina Bauer

**Worlds View**

Ms. Gill Honeyman

Cover picture: Worlds View overlooking the Connemara  
Basin



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*Organic Calendula being grown by Organic Africa at La Rochelle*

## 1. Report Explanation

This report covers the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is recorded that the National Trust of Zimbabwe Executive Council was unable to hold the 2021 AGM before this report is published.

The audited annual financial statements are not included in this report due to delays in compiling/consolidating the financial information (complicated by the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, the effects of rapidly changing exchange rates, changed financial legislative matters affecting leases and loans etc). It is an extended process compiling and collating financial information from the various properties and within the National Trust Zimbabwe (The Trust) Head Office and then arranging the external audit. It is hoped to complete all these processes and convene the 2021 AGM.

## 2. Acknowledgements

We acknowledge, with heartfelt thanks photographs published courtesy of the following people:

Mr David Brazier for the Organic Africa images and

Tony Martin for the Worlds View images



*Photograph of the Sitting Room at La Rochelle Lounge similar to when it was the residence of Sir Stephen and Lady Virginia Courtauld in 1962*



### 3. The National Trust of Zimbabwe Turns 60

Undoubtedly the highlight of this reporting year was that The National Trust of Zimbabwe (Trust) celebrated a milestone birthday in what was an amazing and very busy year and we are proud to share the best parts with you later on in the report. The Trust received many congratulatory messages from other Trusts and people all around the globe including:

*I hope you have a wonderful celebration later this week, and I look forward to hearing all about it. With love and very best wishes from all your friends all around the world.*

*Dame Fiona Reynolds, Chair, INTO*

*Catherine Leonard, Secretary-General INTO produced and shared a video entitled “Reminiscences on the working partnership between INTO and the TRUST” (see <https://into-icnt.org/social-media>) in which she said that she was proud to be part of a successful partnership today with INTO which evolved from the Dublin Conference (2009) all those years ago.*



Willie Dhlandlara cutting the Anniversary cake, overlooked by Sharon Waterworth Vice Chairman NTZ, Gill Honeyman Chairman World's View and Guy Cary Chairman Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition



## 4. About the Trust

### Mission Statement

**‘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 Trust is assigned to the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Climate and Rural Resettlement. It is administered and controlled by a voluntary Council consisting of a President and not less than 10 or more than 20 members of whom not more than 18 are elected at an annual general meeting of members and three are eligible for appointment by The Ministry.

The Executive Council acts as the overall governing body and Regional Committees at Rhodes Nyanga and Worlds View manage their individual portfolio of properties. A voluntary Honorary Secretary and Treasurer manage the Trust headquarters in Harare.

Sources of income include rents, annual subscriptions, donations, admission charges to properties, hire charges for the use of grounds, a small gift shop at Rhodes Nyanga Historical Museum (RHNE) and the proceeds of sales of nursery plants.

The accounts of the Trust are examined and audited at least once in every calendar year by a person registered as a public auditor in terms of the Public Accountants and Auditor Act [Chapter 27:12], this person is elected annually at the general meeting.

### 4.1 Aims and Objectives of the Trust

The aims and objectives of the TRUST are as follows:

- (a) to accept and hold property in Trust for any public purposes and to act in Trust for or as Trustee of any property devoted to public purposes in accordance with the conditions of such Trust;
- (b) to promote for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe the permanent preservation and protection of:
  - i) lands and buildings of national, archaeological, historical or aesthetic interest; natural resources, animal or bird life and trees or flora;
  - ii) objects or collections of objects of any description having national, archaeological, historical or aesthetic interest, including furniture, works of art, stamps and literature;

- (c) to provide the public with access to and enjoyment of the lands, buildings, resources and objects mentioned in (b) above;
- (d) to maintain or manage or assist in maintaining or managing lands and buildings for the purpose of public recreation, entertainment, resort or instruction.

#### 4.2 Office Bearers

Executive Chair:	Mr. D. J. Scott
Vice Chair:	Mrs. S. Waterworth
Treasurer:	Mr J. Hyslop
Secretary:	Mr. C. Hyslop
Executive Council Members:	Mrs. H. Hyslop, Mrs. F. Bache, Mrs L. Goncalves Mrs. C. Peech, Mr. E. Mugamu, Mrs. G. Honeyman, Mrs. E. Logan, Mr. G. Cary
Regional Chairs:	Mr. Busani Bafana, Mabukuwene Mr. G. Cary Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition Mrs. G. Honeyman, Worlds View
Legal Practitioners:	Honey and Blanckenberg, Harare

#### 4.3 Trust Properties

The Trust manages seven properties in Zimbabwe, across 4 provinces:

**Fort Gomo** is a small stone fort 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** consists of a 108 ha site with a French style tower and manor 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 run as a boutique hotel containing historic window panels with over 700 signatures of visitors to the Courtaulds, a large orchid collection in hot houses, arboretum with lovely gardens and, recently, a health spa and an innovative organic herb farm;

**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 Exhibition** known as Rhodes Stables which were 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 Manicaland and persons and events connected with its regional history and development;

**Worlds View** which 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;

**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 and historical heritage that extends back from many thousands of years;

**Sebakwe Poort (gorge)** is essentially an area of natural and unspoiled woodland comprising a large number of species of indigenous trees, including many fine specimens of Acacia species. The Sebakwe River flows through the property and the poort is an impressive sight that is home to certain birds that makes it an important bird site.

#### 4.4 Services offered by Trust sites

- ✓ Walks in indigenous flora and fauna and formal gardens and arboretums
- ✓ Access to a rare exotic orchid collection
- ✓ Bird watching
- ✓ Viewing rare species of butterflies, beetles, moths and dragonflies
- ✓ Woodland and mountain walks
- ✓ Mountain bike and horse riding trails at La Rochelle
- ✓ Boutique hotel (including self-catering) accommodation at La Rochelle
- ✓ Massage and beauty treatments at the Fantasy Spa at La Rochelle
- ✓ Protea and Wild Flower Conservancy at Worlds View
- ✓ Art gallery at Worlds View
- ✓ Curated permanent exhibitions depicting African culture and early Nyanga settlement, traditional leadership, Cecil Rhodes and Nyanga, tribal Chiefs, the Tangwena People and temporary exhibits
- ✓ Event hosting i.e. small conferences, weddings and company retreats
- ✓ Camping and caravanning
- ✓ Access to research library
- ✓ Viewing historical sites including: ruined stone-walled settlements, Iron Age settlements, livestock enclosures, lowland forts associated with the Shona Dynasties, rock paintings; old village remains, graves and various other stone and brick-built structures.



### 5.INTO Membership

The TRUST is part of a much larger family network: INTO, an NGO founded in 2007 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 represents about 55 million individual members and have countless millions of visitors to sites and properties across more than 25 countries. We are proud to be members of INTO and we are hugely grateful for their continued and unwavering support.



### 6.INTO Africa Regional Forum

Closer to home, in 2015, INTO established the Africa Regional Forum of which the Trust is a full time member. The Africa group brings together a vibrant network of African Heritage Organisations that are sharing their ideas and resources, developing a continent-wide voice and promoting and influencing on African cultural heritage matters.



.....  
*Cattleya Orchids at La Rochelle*

## **7. EXECUTIVE CHAIR’S WELCOME REPORT**

On behalf of the Trust Executive Council I welcome you to our 6th Annual Report and wish to thank all our stakeholders for their ongoing support of the Trust in its mission to protect the heritage of Zimbabwe. Without the support of our stakeholders, the Trust would find it extremely difficult to fulfill its mandate, so thank you one and all.

A very important milestone was passed during this last year - the 60th Anniversary of the Trust, since its inauguration. Events were held to celebrate this cross-road details of which are outlined in the report below.

As with the rest of the world, the Trust has not been without its challenges arising from the COVID19 pandemic. Properties were forced to close during certain times of the year, due to pandemic “lockdowns”. We look forward to re-opening them soon and hosting visitors, local and foreign.

The closing of the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition (RNHE” during periods of 2020/21 significantly reduced the numbers of visitors which adversely affected the museum’s revenues. The Curator, Marshall Nyanhanda has performed magnificently at RNHE under extremely difficult circumstances and we sincerely thank him for his commitment to the overall wellbeing of RNHE. The property continues to be run by an active Committee to whom we are very grateful.

Our flagship site is La Rochelle was closed for some time during 2020/21 which made life very difficult. We must congratulate our tenant La Rochelle Centre (Pvt) Ltd for their courage and commitment to the La Rochelle Estate and all their employees. They continue to preserve and develop a very important Zimbabwe asset. Whilst the hotel was closed the organics operation continued to operate with strict COVID19 protocols and this had a positive impact on the local community and to Zimbabwe as a whole. We congratulate the company for its significant and successful impact it is having and thank them for their passionate commitment to the Trust, La Rochelle and the people and Nation of Zimbabwe.

World’s View continues to be a shining light in the Zimbabwe Eastern Highlands, one of the very special places to visit in Zimbabwe. Gill Honeyman and her team continue to develop the site magnificently and it offers visitors a very special opportunity to enjoy peace and quiet and the scenic beauty of the area. The Trust is now working actively towards an environmental protection project for the immediate basin area around World’s View, that is under threat, environmentally and socially (it is a critical birding site, being one of only a few nesting sites of the Blue Swallow).



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Fort Gomo, in the Penhalonga area remains undeveloped at this time. Our vision is to obtain funding to place a small interpretive center there with information illustrating the history of the site and the area. A short document has been compiled which is available to visitors wishing to visit the site and can be obtained from the La Rochelle Reception. The drive to Fort Gomo and the location are very scenic and easy to reach (on the side of a tar road), approximately 20km's from Penhalonga, travelling through a very historic area in Zimbabwe's past.

Our site in Matabeleland is Mabukawene, located in Bulawayo was also closed to the public during the year, this was to allow the Trust to clear up the property, install firebreaks, allow National Museums and Monuments Zimbabwe to visit and to take samples/relics evidencing ancient occupation of the site. The vegetation clearing project was generously sponsored by The Thomas Meikle Trust. Our vision is to develop a small interpretative and heritage and conservation/environmental education facility. We are actively looking at funding opportunities in order to re-open this site for the benefit of everyone.

Sebakwe Poort is a beautiful gorge area on the Sebakwe River near Kwe Kwe. It is an important birding spot. It used to be a popular site for local community to visit, explore, picnic and enjoy its natural beauty. The local community has been involved in clearing roads and removing thick bush, to restore possible access. A sustainable development plan has still to be developed and the support of the local community sought in order to keep this area available to visitors.

Murahwa's Hill is located next to Mutare Showgrounds and it consists of a historic kopje containing ancient burial sites, paintings and surrounded by natural indigenous forests. The site has been under threat by illegal settlers. This matter has occupied the Trust in obtaining Court Orders to remove people from the site. There are plans to establish a new Mutare Committee and to develop a plan for the protection and future use of the site for environmental and heritage education activities.

My personal thanks go to the members of the Trust Executive Council and the various Committees that make the Trust work. Their passion and dedication to the Trust and its mission, never ceases to amaze me!

**David Scott**  
**Chairman**

It was a real honor for the RHNE to host The Hon. Mangaliso Ndlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Tourism and Hospitality Industry in September 2020 during his trip to the Eastern Highlands.



Mr Marshall Nyanhanda, the Curator of the exhibition, warmly welcomed the Hon. Minister and his entourage and said that he was very privileged to meet everyone and to show them around the permanent collection.



*The Hon. Mangaliso Ndlovu studying Cecil Rhodes Desk circa 1890*

We thank you very much for visiting the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition. It was our pleasure indeed.

<https://ntoz.org/the-hon-mangaliso-ndlovu-visits-the-rhodes-nyanga-historical-exhibition/>



## 8. Annual Reports for Each Trust Property

The Trust manages seven properties with the help of its Executive Council and Regional Committees all of whom are voluntary workers. Here are the Annual Reports for each of the properties.

### 8.1 La Rochelle Centre

It was a challenging twelve months for La Rochelle Centre, with the COVID-19-global pandemic leading to a low to zero occupancy for much of the first half of 2020. Our people showed their resilience during difficult times and on October 31st 2020 La Rochelle Country House was proud to host the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday where guests from the Trust enjoyed a beautifully set garden luncheon and entertained by the Phoenix Choir. In addition, speeches were given by the Executive Council Members of the Trust led by Mr Guy Cary and La Rochelle representatives, who spoke about the Trust's work over the years and their collaborations with La Rochelle.

The guests enjoyed an estate tour hosted by the Managing Director Mr Kevin Martin, where they learned about various organic herbs grown by La Rochelle. The La Rochelle Centre marked the occasion by premiering a 45 minute documentary of the Courtaulds and their development of La Rochelle, which featured the renowned botanist Robbie Honey. This was accompanied by a presentation on the finalisation of the Signature project by Ms. Nina Bauer and Mrs Heather White - a mammoth seven year project - and a shorter publication featuring prominent signatures compiled by Mrs Debbie Leared.

The day ended with the opening of the succulent garden to commemorate the Trust anniversary and a tree planting to pay a special tribute to Gordon Adams, a great friend of La Rochelle who passed away tragically a few months earlier.



*Sustainable succulent garden to commemorate Trust's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



## 8.2 Hotel Maintenance and Developments

La Rochelle seeks to provide guests with fresh and organic produce from our organic vegetable garden. To this end we revamped the vegetable gardens by installing drip irrigation, allowing a more water-wise approach to gardening while improving the rotations of vegetables and general soil nutrition.

The gardens and entrance are looking in excellent shape right now thanks to Kevin's supervision and over the last year or so a number of indigenous trees were planted at La Rochelle.



*The view of the organic vegetable garden from the front of the hotel*

Other hotel developments included major work on the ceilings and roofing trusses around the key public areas which was carried out during the COVID-19 shutdown months of the second quarter followed by the re-upholstery of the parlours' furnishings. The kitchen was retiled and painted as was the scullery, cellar, laundry and office. We attended to the deteriorating veneers in Room 1 and 2 as well as parts of the study/snuggery. The Virginia Cottage had a full upgrade which made a huge difference to the building and The West Wing also had something of an upgrade especially in the kitchenette where there was also rotting woodwork. The pool is currently undergoing major repairs and re paint.

Major work was carried out on the upgrading of underground piping as well as the main reservoir and renovations took place on the small rondavel adjacent to the orchid houses. The renovated rondavel was renamed "Nigel's Cottage" after Nigel Ewart who was instrumental in the cottage refurbishments and who played a vital role in the major repairs, maintenance and upgrade of La Rochelle infrastructure since the reopening in 2014.



*Inside the newly renovated Nigel's Cottage and Front view of Nigel's Cottage*

### 8.3 Skill-share Hub

The La Rochelle Centre, true to its vision and mission as a 'nexus of education, culture, arts and agriculture, commits to the local community in which it operates and the sustainable development goals such as decent work and economic growth.

As part of this commitment, La Rochelle, continuing Lady Virginia's legacy, we launched a Skill-share program to transfer skills generally to the community and to women particularly, creating sustainable incomes through projects such as embroidery, pottery, weaving, and beekeeping.

*Work sample of one of the participants from the embroidery training: lavender*



The activities included identifying and recruiting women and leading volunteers in skill, training, mentorship, and business skills. The projects cover design, development, production and marketing. In short the project will support women in the wider community developing their skills helping provide market access to sell their products and growing their enterprises.





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On April 13th April 2021, La Rochelle hosted its first workshop in embroidery, where a leading embroidery consultant, Diana Negri, delivered a one-week training workshop to 13 women



from neighboring areas. After the workshop, the women formed La Rochelle's Embroidery Club, which now meets weekly and generates income for needlework using the gift-shop as an outlet with future plans to include a website presence. La Rochelle is currently establishing a pottery center which includes the sourcing and funding of a potter's wheel and kiln, while continuing with weaving training and embroidery

training over the next quarter.

*Participants of the embroidery club standing outside the old Craft Hall, originally established by Lady Virginia Courtauld*

#### 8.4 Social Impact of La Rochelle Organics

La Rochelle Organics (LRO) implemented a lot of initiatives focusing on its social impact. The most important one being a COVID-19 awareness, prevention and treatment initiative (funded by a German development bank (DEG)), which was a great success. This initiative ensured that the negative health and financial impacts of COVID-19 upon the farm workers was greatly mitigated by providing long-term training, safe transport and healthy working conditions: including sanitizing stations and masks, so that they could continue to come to work without risking infection.

Of the 49,000 confirmed cases in Zimbabwe, only 1 out of 342 LRO workers reported to have contracted COVID-19 (January to July 2021): a strong indication that LRO has been quite successful in curbing the spread of the



COVID-19 Training in Awareness and Prevention



*HERITAGE IS PRECIOUS – TREASURE IT*  
disease among its employees.



Food packs and health supplements were given to all the farm workers to boost their resilience and 2,924 food packs and 5,075kg of baobab powder was distributed. This went a long way to helping the farm workers meet their basic needs. In the end, including each individual household member, 1,700 people benefited.

LRO with the cooperation of an American tea company called 'Traditional Medicines' provided more food and health supplements and a total of 5,400kg of maize meal and 540kg of baobab powder was distributed. Since access to food aid is severely curbed by the strict lockdown international and local development organisations have been unable to operate properly, the food packs and health supplements were much appreciated by the farm workers.



*Baobab health supplements*

LRO supported the Nzeve organisation for deaf and hearing men and women that reaches out to families and communities across Manicaland with deafness awareness, early identification and intervention for deaf children and support to their families. In Zimbabwe, deaf people are being overlooked because they have an invisible disability. As a result, deaf youth and particularly deaf young women see themselves as hopeless: their confidence having been broken by years of discrimination, even within their own families.





Thanks to the support provided by LRO in conjunction with DEG, Nzeve identified five skilled seamstresses and it was agreed that the materials and sewing machines needed, and the seamstresses' monthly fees, would be paid for. The seamstresses made masks and protective clothing for COVID-19 prevention and LRO is purchasing them. This benefitted both LRO in providing P.P.E to their farms and at the same time creating financial and social benefits for the deaf youth and their families.

The participants displayed enormous satisfaction from being able to partake in the initiative and earn an income. This income gives the participants a sense of responsibility that impacts their wellbeing, especially during the difficult times of the pandemic. The initiative has a vast potential for success, benefiting both LRO and positively impacting the deaf community, especially deaf women, as well as the broader community.

#### HERITAGE IS PRECIOUS – TREASURE IT



LRO was able to gradually increase salaries and this provided better food security for the farm workers and their families: for example, there was a 25% increment on basic salaries, as well as allowance increments of 164% effective from March 2021. In the long run, the initiative will be of great benefit to LRO's farm workers and also the staff and visitors of La Rochelle Country House, as now both LRO and LRC are as prepared as they can be for another wave of COVID-19

*Harvesting chillies*



*Sanitizing stations*

*All photographs courtesy of Mr David Brazier*

## 9. Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition Annual Report

Sadly, for three of the months during 2021 the Museum received not a single visitor. Overall numbers came to fewer than we have welcomed previously in a few days: 226 adults - of whom only 7 were foreigners - and 37 children. Under normal circumstances there could be two busloads of schoolchildren and their teachers - up to 200 visitors - descending on the Museum in a single day.

This sudden loss of income has had a profound effect on the Museum's ability to operate - even to pay the modest salary of our loyal and able curator, Marshall Nyanhanda. We are grateful to those who stepped in to help fill this breach, in particular Gill Honeyman the tireless and highly imaginative Chair of World's View, who 'transfers' funds to us from our sister Trust property here in Nyanga; also the Trust and a generous donation by Willie Dhlandhlara of the Solon Foundation. Day in and day out, Marshall has kept the doors open - helped on occasions by two very useful assistants, Ruvarashe Makanza and Catherine Chinetzvi whose efforts are also much appreciated.

The Museum continues to display a collection of wood-carvings and stone sculptures by the late Jonathan Matimba, an artist whose family still lives in Nyanga district and whose widow recently died. For a while during the past year, negotiations have been undertaken with the National Gallery in Harare, for these artworks to be displayed there, but the costs of insurance and transport have so far proved beyond the means of both organisations. We are anxious to keep this collection intact, if possible. From time to time the Museum has been a happy recipient of assorted items for display, and once again we are indebted to the Logans for all that they left with us, prior to their move to Harare. Adjacent to the Museum is a small shop offering various artefacts, as well as second-hand books, and we are grateful to all those who have either donated or supplied stocks for sale.



*The Mighty Eagle by Jonathan Matimba*

*Stone*

*Height: 43cms Width: 36cms*





*The Scholar by Jonathan Matimba*

Wood

Height: 120 cms Width: 30 cms

The elements - and baboons - take their toll on our ageing structures. Roof-leaks appeared during the recent very wet season in our upstairs gallery and in the Grainger reading room; and a leaping baboon (bearing in mind that our Museum is situated within a game-park) crashed through the veranda roof before making a startled departure. The outside wooden stairway, leading to one end of our loft display area, had rotted to the point where it was no longer safe and, again, we are grateful both for the supply of wooden steps by the Logans and to Marshall for so painstakingly installing them, as he has also done with wooden railings alongside the display shed. In addition he takes care of the strip of lawn and flower beds at the front of the building. Clearly, it is necessary for the Museum to have its own water-source, rather than constantly drawing from the hotel, and plans are in hand to pipe water down from a furrow higher up the slope.



*Exhibit on the upper floor*



*Exhibit on the upper floor*

Included in our projects for the future are a 50-seater video/lecture room to accommodate those restless school pupils awaiting their turn to be shown round the Museum. This facility will take a lot of pressure off our curator, and could also be used for public lectures of interest to the local community.

Another project in the pipeline is the establishment of a comprehensive Nyanga information center as part of the Museum's operations - also hopefully serving as an additional draw to visitors in this area. Much of the material needed for such a center has already been prepared, along with a new full-color RNHE brochure. Thanks to the voluntary services of a professional photographer, we now have an abundance of material for this, too. Needless to say, available funds for getting these developments off the ground, is a constant concern.

We have also enjoyed impromptu visits by government visitors and officials - all recorded and handled most competently by Marshall.

My sincere hearty thanks go to the lively and committed Museum committee members - Naboth and Josephine (Vice-Chair and Treasurer respectively), Merle (our Secretary), Nyasha (so often the generous hostess from Rhodes Hotel), and Pixie.

**GUY CARY**  
Chair

## 10. Worlds View Annual Report



*Early morning dew on spider's web at World's View*     *Sunset over the valley below the World's View escarpment*  
Photos courtesy of Tony Martin

Once again, we thank all our visitors for their continued support and generosity at the View. Even at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we kept the View site open for those willing to tackle the harsh road 'up the mountain' to take in the fresh mountain air, enjoy the magnificent scenery, flora and birdlife. Most returning visitors now bring their picnic baskets and cooler boxes and make a real day of it, some stay well into the evening to witness the magnificent sunsets from the various vantage points and toposcope.

The Trust 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations were also held at Worlds View on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021. It was a very scaled down event, due to COVID-19 restricted numbers, but it was a packed day that started with speeches by Vice Chair, Sharon Waterworth, Willie Dhlandlara (Solon Foundation) and Guy Cary, followed by a buffet luncheon and sparkling wines.



Willie Dhlandlara



Sharon Waterworth





*Buffet luncheon .and bubbly served by Talent, saleslady at the Sculpture Garden*

After lunch we moved into the Gallery for the official opening of the Mike Kimberley Room. A granite plaque was unveiled together with a framed tribute to Mike, who played a key role in the early days of the Trust and in particular the World's View site (see achievements and other key activities). Guests then moved onto the veranda to watch the cutting of the 60th birthday cake, iced with the Trust colours, and enjoy a slice of delicious cake (see introduction).

Our thanks go to Sharon Waterworth and Fira Bache for bringing up all the equipment and necessary 'stuff' to show the Trust 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday video, introducing all the Trust Sites throughout Zimbabwe. This was the first public viewing and an excellent presentation for those wanting to know more about our various sites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRa4kz8iBlg&feature=YouTube.be>

We managed to complete a number of projects over the past year despite our downturn in income. A new stairway down to the 'bush walk' has been built and now gives safe access to a short walk 'on the wild side'. A number of new stone benches were built with some of the best views over the valley. They are being well used by visitors who really appreciate the extra facilities.

*Matirina at work on the steps*





*One of the new benches*

Just below the toposcope, an old staircase was discovered after removing some ground cover overgrowth. We tagged on another bench which now provides a pleasant shady spot for visitors to sit. It should take about a year for the grass and shrubs to established themselves, providing that the oncoming winter does not take its toll!



*The discovered' staircase*



*New bench terracing not yet complete*



### *HERITAGE IS PRECIOUS – TREASURE IT*

Another of our generous visitors, Mr and Mrs Alberti , donated funds for the construction of 'The Robertson Bench, which has been built in a rocky outcrop just above the 'bush walk' We thank them most sincerely for sponsoring this bench and allowing us to 'keep the change' that was left over after completion.



*Luke and Stephen preparing the area*



*Work in progress*



*Mr and Mrs Alberti returned to site to celebrate the completion of the Robertson Bench*

The annual World's View 'Carols at Sunset' was held on Christmas Eve, and despite the pandemic, 130 people and seven dogs made it up the mountain to celebrate together and sing their hearts out.

Our thanks to Guy Cary, who organised the word sheets and bravely conducted the singing from one of the lower terraces.

The World's View Choir gave us a special treat by singing two Shona Christmas songs. Mince pies and cool drinks were handed out at the end of proceedings.

*Guy Cary, conducting the carol singers*





## HERITAGE IS PRECIOUS – TREASURE IT



The Woodland family returned, for a third time, to entertain the ‘crowd’: Peter on trumpet, Andrew on saxophone and Victoria on flute (pictured above), played from the toposcope during interval. They received huge applause from a very appreciative audience and we thank them most sincerely for their wonderful and unfailing support of the National Trust. We look forward to many more Woodland recitals at the View.

## ***Zimbabwe loses more than three hundred hectares of forest yearly (Forestry Commission, 2008)***

The Zimbabwe National Army are great supporters of the World’s View site and we were happy to welcome a number of recruits who were on an officer selection course from the Zimbabwe Military Academy, Gweru.



*Recruits on the Helen Hyslop Hill*



*The lady recruits that were on the course — except one!*

The Zimbabwe Republic Police were invited to address a meeting with the local community who had expressed concerns about the illegal grazing of cattle on the mountain. Afterwards they were invited to a tour of the View, and were amazed at the beauty of the site and the magnificent view over Nyanga Village where they are stationed.

*Const Masase, Const Sinyabuwe, Sgt Kaita and  
Sgt Tichiwangani on the balcony of the Toposcope*





We were delighted to have a visit from our local chief, Chief Hata (Edward Chingamere pictured left]). He told us a few fireside stories that his father, and his father before, had passed down the generations, of tribal battles and sieges that took place along the escarpment many years ago.

He has promised to return to give a more detailed account of the local community and their past lifestyles and beliefs. This will enable us to write an article for display in the Kimberley Room giving an historic but hopefully colourful and romantic account of the cultural heritage of this magical, mysterious and very spiritual part of Nyanga.

The road up from Troutbeck to World's View remains a mission for anything other than 4 X 4's. The recent rainy season saw several cars abandoned on the muddy, slippery slopes, and a huge underground stream sprang up right in the middle of the road outside Tsanga Lodge. The local Council have been unable to undertake any road repairs due to financial constraints, but the valiant efforts of our neighbours, Little Connemara, have

managed to keep the road open, despite some very tricky sections that are now down to bedrock. So, be warned 4 X 4 for sure, and don't forget your picnic basket and cooler box.



A number of new road signs have been placed on the circular drive and a diagrammatic map is being prepared by Connemara, which will be placed at the 'Y' junction of World's View Road, Connemara Drive and the Joan MacIlwaine Drive. These additions will certainly assist motorists in misty conditions!

*Matirina and Itiyi 'planting' signs*

A really big thank you to the Board and owners of Little Connemara for continuing to support our efforts in the control of invasive species on the plateau. Much progress has been made on the sections north and south of the fenced View site, with most of the larger trees having been felled and regrowth being removed on a regular basis. Some local plot owners have asked their own caretakers to assist by keeping their verges clear, and a big thank you to Murray Lynton-Edwards for keeping the large wetland area, adjacent to his property, clear of 'volunteer' pine saplings. Without such help, and a few years from now, there would have been a pine forest, and one of our precious wetlands would have been lost forever.

Wishing you all safe journeys and many happy visits to Nyanga, especially to our beautiful World's View.

**Gill Honeyman**  
Chair

## 11. Fort Gomo, Mabukuwene, Murahwa's Hill and Sebakwe Poort Annual Report

Annual reports for Fort Gomo, Mabukuwene, Murahwa's Hill and Sebakwe Poort are contained in the Executive Chairs report.

## 12. ACHIEVEMENTS AND OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

I am delighted to report on the Trust's achievements and other key activities from April 2020 to March 2021.

### 12.1 COVID-19

Like every other organisation around the world, we had to change and adapt to a new COVID-19 landscape in which we found ourselves living. As everyone else, we became more creative and resilient in our daily lives and our Executive Council continued to meet via Zoom. Two of our sites namely Worlds View and the RHNE were really impacted and the number of visitors coming to these two iconic sites was zero which resulted in a 100% loss of income for most of the year. With finances straining we are very thankful that we did receive rental for La Rochelle Centre and we received many generous donations to pay salaries and maintenance work. Sadly, some of the projects that we had intended to undertake had to be put on hold. But, I am very pleased to report that no-one lost their job rather everyone was busy carrying out maintenance work, gardening and preparing for when lockdown restrictions eased and visitors could be welcomed back. For instance, along with other measures, a 'Tippy Tap' was constructed near the car park for visitors to wash their hands on arrival and departure. Tippy-taps are locally made devices simple and low-cost that provide handwashing stations and motivation for people to prioritise handwashing.



*The Tippy Tap*

### 12.2 Donations

We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following people who very generously gifted to the Trust:

'Robertson Bench' at Worlds View. You chose a beautiful location: afternoon sun, sheltered from the wind, and a breath-taking view a beautiful spot to sit and remember your parents.



Prof. Roberts for the printing of the La Rochelle Signature booklets. It was quite a fitting contribution as Prof. Roberts assisted with some of the project research and the timely donation meant that we were able to launch the publication at the Trust 60th Anniversary event at La Rochelle.

The Trust is deeply indebted to Mr H Leared of the La Rochelle Centre for replacing the timeworn National Trust plaque. The new plaque, set on a copper plate, reflects the re-branded National Trust logo and colours and it looks perfectly placed on the court yard wall of La Rochelle Country House and Spa.



Mr H Leared also generously funded a video about La Rochelle. The presenter of the video is Robbie Honey Floral Designer, Lecturer and Author of 'The Accidental Botanist: The Structure of Plants Revealed', who passionately shared his botanical knowledge about the abundant flora growing in the grounds of La Rochelle. The Thomas Meikle Trust for the vegetation clearing at Muabukuwene.

Kind donations were also received from Lynda Hyde, Des Becker, Patricia Broderick and Janet Hoppit. Your support is very much appreciated.



*The unveiling of the Mike Kimberley memorial plaque by Guy Cary, Sharon Waterworth and Gill Honeyman*

### 12.3 Trust Family

Michael John Kimberley: 2 May 1934 - 3 January 2020 (see <http://ntoz.org/tribute-to-mike-kimberley/>)

At the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations held at Worlds View, Mr Guy Cary, gave a well-researched speech in dedication of the late Mr Michael Kimberly. Guy said that Mike was a wonderful and dedicated supporter of TRUST and he made a great contribution to the success of the

organisation. The Trust honoured Mike's commitment with the formal naming of the 'Mike Kimberley Room' (adjacent the Worlds View Art Gallery) was declared official and a memorial plaque was unveiled to much applause.

### Edone Ann Logan Retires

Edone Ann sadly decided to retire as Chair of the RHNE after working tirelessly since it was formed in 2011. There are not enough words to say a huge thank you to Edone Ann for all the hard work and dedication that she has given to the Trust over many years. It has been such a real pleasure to work alongside you. Edone certainly put the RHNE on the map in more ways



than one from doubling the exhibition size, expanding the collection, assisting compiling the national curriculum for heritage education in Zimbabwe, exhibiting the work of local artists: the re-discovery of Jonathan Matimbas work was extraordinary. As well as organising numerous interesting and engaging talks on various subjects at the museum and winning an international prize for the best Cultural Heritage education project that involved 130 schoolchildren and was shown at an INTO conference in Bali.

*Edone being presented with several thank you gifts*

Edone was a co-author of a publication entitled "Nyanga's Rich Heritage which promotes the beauty of Nyanga and gives information on the ancient and modern history of the area in order to engender a deeper knowledge and understanding of the local resources.

Judging by the many wonderful comments written by visitors to the Exhibition, Edone has left a lasting impression and greater knowledge to all, especially to schoolchildren. We are going to miss you so very much.

### 12.4 Membership

In January 2021 the Trust became a proud member of the 'INTO Places' scheme whereby our members now have access to enter sites, with no fee, cared for by INTO members all over the globe. We know that our members will enjoy this amazing and highly advantageous new benefit as soon as international travel opens once again.

In keeping with the Trust's branding profile, a new membership card was designed to reflect the new colours and contain all the new benefits from INTO. Plus following a new relationship



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that was established another new benefit was added for members: a discount for MoonDogs Pet Care Services in Harare.

### 11.5 Marketing and Social Media Platforms

The uplifting of the Trusts profile continued in various ways including the setting up of a Google Business Account for the Worlds View property and we are super pleased to report that every single review has been a 5 star one.

The sharing of news and stories and information continued via our website and facebook:



[www.ntoz.org](http://www.ntoz.org) and



[www.facebook.com/pages/National-Trust-of-Zimbabwe](https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Trust-of-Zimbabwe)

### 12.6 International Museum Day: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

International Museum Day was not only a day for celebration but for reflection and action and the RHNE released a statement, before the Black Lives Matter protests, entitled 'Equality: Diversity and Inclusion'.

With Rhodes's name attached to the museum, the Trust strives for a *balance* of what we can now regard as equality: incorporating diversity and the inclusion of all Zimbabweans' interests in what is displayed within its walls. We aim to represent all facets of the rich human and natural resources, and often troubled history, of our uniquely beautiful country, showing how its people of all colours and cultures have contributed to what Zimbabwe is today.

The Trust believes that all museums should be caring custodians of the past and vital visionaries for the future.

### 12.7 New Relationships

Every year the Trust enjoys forging new relationships and partnerships for which we are truly grateful for and key to the success of many projects. We would like to acknowledge our newest relationships:

D.E.D. Germany - Eco Buddies Zimbabwe - MoonDogs Pet Care Services - Diana Negi, Embroidery Consultant - Nzeve - Traditional Medicines

### 12.8 Videos, Newsletters, Articles and Booklet

#### Videos

The first ever Trust video was made to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday introducing all the Trust sites throughout Zimbabwe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRa4kz8iBlg&feature=YouTube.be>

RHNE featured on a video produced by 'The Tourist Lookout' highlighting it as one of the best 'hidden tourist gems' of the Eastern Highlands. The video shows Marshall Nyanhanda, the





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Curator showing the team around and being interviewed <https://ntoz.org/the-museum-featured-in-this-tourism-video/>

### Newsletter

The Trust continued to issue new worthy quarterly newsletters. Please do take a read as they contain a lot of interesting information <http://ntoz.org/newsletters-and-updates/>

### Articles

The Trust was featured on the Ndeipi website: <https://bambazonke.co.zw/national-Trust-of-zimbabwe-60th-anniversary/>

### Booklets: Research Project

Following 7 years of painstaking research about the past guests who signed the sitting room windows (1954-1970) at La Rochelle Country House finally came to a close. The Trust would like to acknowledge and thank Ms. Nina Bauer and Ms. Heather White for their tireless passionate and dedicated time and energy that has resulted in such a fascinating and historical document. The Trust will be publishing the results of the research project in a hard copy book and as a soft copy e-Book later on this year. Details will be on our website soon.

### Trust Booklet

The Trust introduction booklet was updated and circulated and we received some great comments including:

*Thank you for this comprehensive and informative booklet. What a treasure - it adds to the heritage that we should all treasure. Thank you again*

*Willie Dhlandhlara, Solon Foundation*

*Actually, this Booklet is much too distracting - makes me want to pack up and go birding/butterflying in Zimbabwe immediately. In fact the itinerary would be completely guided by the contents of this Booklet.*

*Solon Foundation Director in South Africa*

We are of course optimistic that it will not be too long before the world opens up once more and lives can get back to some semblance of normality. We are optimistic that the Trust will continue to work and catalogue scientific information, publish educational and historical material, work with local communities, scale up our cultural heritage, historical and environmental education programmes. The vision for Worlds View is to continue with the biological monitoring and recording changes in the flora species and abundance and carry on with archaeological research and possibly unearth and protect more archaeological sites. Our challenge is to connect even more people to our priceless historical sites, to their timeless natural wild areas and beauty, built structures and local communities. We look forward to welcoming you at one of our glorious sites soon. Please stay safe.

**Sharon Waterworth, Vice Chair**



*Sculpture at La Rochelle by the late Bernard Manyandure (1929-1999) who was born in Nyanga, and derived much of his subject matter from local folklore*