

# ***FRIENDS OF HWANGE TRUST***

*Saving Zimbabwe's largest National Park*

*In partnership with Wildlife & Environment Zimbabwe and The National Parks & Wildlife Management Authority*

## **Newsletter Nov 2011**

### **Dear Friends of Hwange**

At the height of the dry season, it is with mixed feelings that we send out this newsletter. The breathless heat that has been experienced in Hwange National Park during past weeks has added to the unbearable pressure on pans critically short of water. Elephants are dominating all waterholes around the Park showing aggression to any other animals that try to snatch a drink, as well as to weaker members of their own species. Desperate to drink, they have caused extensive damage to pipes at many pans by ripping them out of the ground. The melee round the pans is distressing indeed. Gary has worked tirelessly under very trying conditions to repair damage and keep pumping as much water as possible into the pans day and night.

On a positive note, the Fundraising Dinner held at Mahobohobo in Harare on 30 September was a huge success. 400 guests, including Karina Holmes - of Karina on Safari fame - who travelled from England to be there. It was held in a beautifully dressed marquee, with a sumptuous feast provided by caterer Amanda Wessels. All the guests enjoyed an entertaining, fun filled evening. Ticket sales, an auction and a raffle, as well as many generous donations helped to realize a substantial profit on the night. To all those who supported our efforts, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

We have already purchased a used tractor in very good condition with some of the proceeds from the dinner, and have been able to provide diesel to pump water to the pans in the past weeks without having to worry about immediate availability of funds. There is much repair work to be done after the onset of the rains, for which some of the remaining funds will be used. It should be noted that a new borehole was drilled at Kennedy 2 pan to augment water supplied by the solar unit there, funds for drilling and mono pump were kindly provided by WEZ Matabeleland.





It is our fervent hope and prayer that the rather depressing picture in Hwange at present will be relieved very soon by soaking, life giving rains to yield abundant green grass and new life. All involved with this beautiful, tough wilderness will breathe a huge sigh of relief, and take a well-earned rest.

Thank you to the following sponsors for making the Fundraising Dinner a great success.

Crest Distribution, Gary Knight - Pangoula Abattoir, Supreme Butchery Chisipite, Meat Paradise - Sean Waller, Central Cash butchery - Saul Fleischman, Cheeseman, Fruit and Veg City, Andrews Herbs, Moldon Marketing, RYK & JULIET YATES, Spar Groombridge, Spar Ballantyne Park, Stables Winery, Cape Wine Zimbabwe, Big 5 Wines, Rooiberg Winery, Bullred Farming, Century Ice, Dickinson and Henley Bottle Store, Booze@9a Drew, NMB Bank, Rooneys, The Hide Safari Camp, Wilderness Holdings, African Bush Camps, Africa Albida Tourism, Miombo Safari Camp, Camp Amalinda, African Encounter, Victoria 22, Strachans Photo, Larry Norton, David Filer, Rozanne Tunmer, Tammy Pohl, Calla van Zyl, David Dell, Wechi, BR Toyota, Canon South Africa, Floribunda & Village Walk Nursery.

To close, we wish you all a safe, happy and wet festive season, and re-iterate our gratitude to all for ongoing concern and support.

The Trustees  
Friends of Hwange Trust



**Trustees: D.C. Dell; B. Edwards; B. Wolhuter; D. St Quintin; Dr. K. Jenkins, P. Turner**

**Founder: R.A. Franklin**

**Tel: +263-4 707973; Mobile (Dave Dell): +263-712-630152; Email: [foh@strachans.co.zw](mailto:foh@strachans.co.zw)**

**C/O Box 3021, Harare, Zimbabwe**

**Website: [www.friendsofhwange.org](http://www.friendsofhwange.org)**

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