

Zane Newsletter to Australia February 2011

Dear friend of Zane in Australia

We watch and listen with amazement at what mother nature is serving up to so many communities in Australia. You certainly have had an extraordinary range of natural disasters.

Please find in the current newsletter a summary of monies received in 2010; details of the Zane visit to Australia in March, and an article by Cathy Buckle providing insights and reflections of life in Zimbabwe

Please browse the ZANE website (www.zane.uk.com) for information about ZANE's community work.

Financial summary

We are delighted to report that a total of A\$52 724 has been received on our behalf by our supporting charity the RSL Community Care during the year 2010 from Zane donors in Australia. Of this \$6115 has been spent on mostly on accountancy fees, some small costs and a few unavoidable tax deductions. We have decided that the best procedure is to wait until an amount of \$10 000 has been accumulated in order to minimize transfer fees.

A total of \$40 000 has to date been transferred to Zane UK for onward transmission to Zimbabwe.

We are most grateful to Mickey Michaelis and the RSL for this facility they have made available to us.

Zane visit to Australia

Tom Benyon, Director of Zane, and I will be touring Australia in March 2011.

Our itinerary is:

Perth 17th -20th March

Canberra 20st -22rd March

Tasmania 22nd -28th March

Sydney 28th -31st March

Perth Program

Friday 18th March

2.30 for 3pm Zane Presentation. Please see details below

This is generally for people who have not been to one before. If you know someone who would like to attend, please put them in touch with me. We have a maximum of 50 seats available.

INVITATION TO A ZANE PRESENTATION

Please join us for a presentation by ZANE (Zimbabwe A National Emergency).

Tom Benyon, Director and Mike Carter, a Zane manager in Zimbabwe will be in attendance.

The aim of the presentation is to raise awareness of the work being done by the British charity ZANE and to increase our circle of friends and donors. There will be time for a general discussion around the Zimbabwean situation.

Date: Friday 18th March

Time: 2.30 for 3pm through to 5pm

Venue: 76 Birkdale Street in Floreat

Kindly hosted by The Australian Institute of Management

Safe parking is available nearby

RSVP to Michael Carter on email carter@zol.co.zw

Saturday 19th March

Zane Friends in Perth for a drink.

Please would all of you who attended our presentation last year join us for an informal update and a drink at 5pm at the home of Craig and Annie Halsted. Please reply directly to them for catering purposes.

Their address is:

85 Shenton Road

SWANBOURNE

WA 6010.

Tel: +61 8 9286 2849

RSVP To halsted@iinet.net.au

Sunday 20th March

Tom will speak at Gilly Dodd's congregation in the morning from 9.30 at a church situated at 32 Bull Creek Drive, Bullcreek.

Canberra program

We will meet with and pay our respects to the RSL hierarchy and map the way forward for Zane Australia.

Tasmania program

Owen and Helen Tilbury are preparing a number of fundraisers in Hobart and Launceston which will feature a documentary about the history and current situation in Zimbabwe. We believe that this powerful film will be of interest to a wider group than ex Zimbabweans and help convey to Australians some of the extreme situations faced by people in this country.

Sydney program

Tuesday 29th March: Please will friends of Zane in Sydney join us at Andy and Wendy Loefflers house at 6pm for a drink, a chat and a light meal.

Please contact Wendy if you can make it on 04 12776734 or 939 86734 or wendyloefler@gmail.com

Her address is 20A Sully Street Randwick

Wednesday 30th March: Please join us for some fun in aid of Zane. Lindsay Sherman and Alex Reed have organized a trivial pursuit evening.

Time: 6.30 - 9pm

Place: Red Room, 99 on York, 99 York St, Sydney

Tickets: \$300 for a table of 10

Contact: lindsay@musasa.com

Cathy Buckle writes from Marondera:

Dear Family and Friends,

There is a natural swimming pool on a cold mountain river in Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands. At a spot where the Inyangombe River cavorts over an outcrop of smooth, weathered, brown rocks, the river settles briefly into a pool below the waterfalls. Sometime in the past, many decades ago, river sand was brought in and deposited on the banks, creating a perfect beach. The water in the pool is clear and cold, the river base covered in smooth pebbles and when the wind blows in the branches of the overhanging trees and whispers in the pine needles, you can't help but forget the absurdity of current affairs in Zimbabwe.

When a friend got a hole in the exhaust pipe of his car this week, a simple job turned into a marathon. A visit to a local garage, line the vehicle up, drive onto the ramp and then wait while the car is elevated a couple of metres off the ground and the repair is undertaken. No problem you say? Ah, but only as long as the electricity stays on! Twenty minutes into the job the electricity went off, the car was left stranded 2 metres off the ground. Closing time approached and my friend got anxious. "What about my car," he asked?

"Nothing to do" the mechanic replied, "I've got no way of getting it down. It'll have to stay there till tomorrow."

“Haven’t you got a generator?” my friend asked, his wallet, ID and house keys were all locked inside the car which was hanging over his head. The generator wasn’t powerful enough to run the elevator ramp and so the workshop was closed up till the next morning.

Long before opening time my friend was back at the garage. The electricity had come on overnight when no one was around but had gone off again at 5 in the morning.

Close your eyes, can you hear the wind in the pine trees above the Inyangombe River, I thought to myself as I heard the story.

8 o’clock came, 9, 10 and then finally at 11 in the morning the electricity flickered back into life.

A simple 15 minute job had taken

19 hours and the loss of business incurred by my friend and the garage owner another incalculable drain on our stone broke, impoverished country.

Oh to sit on the beach alongside a clear, cool mountainous pool!