

## Zane Newsletter to Australia

April 2011

Dear friends of Zane in Australia

Please find in the current newsletter: a summary of monies received into our Australian account to April 2011; and a report of the Zane visit to Australia in March.

You will read below about the trip undertaken by Tom and I to Australia. It went very well because of the tremendous goodwill we experienced everywhere we visited:

Thank you in particular to:

Annie and Craig Halsted, Bruce and Gilly Dodd in Perth

Mickey Michaelis and the RSL in Canberra

Owen and Helen Tilbury in Tasmania

Andy and Wendy Loeffler, Lindsay Shermin and Alex Reid in Sydney

If you would like to find out more about ZANE please visit our website: <http://www.zane-zimbabweanationalemergency.com/> If you would like to get involved in any way please read through to the paragraph at the end on a possible way forward. If you have any ideas please get in touch with me.

Sincerely

Michael

### Financial summary

We are delighted to report that A\$80 000 has been received on our behalf by our supporting charity the RSL Community Care during the period February 2010 to mid April 2011 from Zane donors in Australia. About \$8 000 of this has arrived as a result of our recent trip and we conservatively estimate we will receive a further \$15 000 in the next two weeks.

The total we expect by mid year therefore will be close to A\$100 000. A total of A\$ 55 000 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 that has been so valuable to us but which will be ending later on this year. Please see below for more details on this.

On behalf of Zane and the victims in Zimbabwe a warm "Thank you" to Australia

### **Zane visit to Australia**

Tom Benyon and Mike visited Perth, Canberra, Tasmania and Sydney during the latter half of March 2011. The purpose of the visit was to raise awareness of Zane in Australia and fundraise. The trip was successful and revealed new possible options for the future.

### **Perth**

In Perth we met a number of old and new friends. There was healthy debate about how to develop our network base .Gilly Dodd has initiated an Adopt-A-Grannie scheme between Australians and individuals in the old age homes in Zimbabwe.Tom spoke at the Westminster Presbyterian Church Bullcreek about Zane and in support of her scheme. There was a very positive and heartwarming response. We await to see how Perth can be revitalized with a vibrant Zane network.

### **Canberra**

We travelled to Canberra to meet and extend our thanks to the RSL for their services to Zane during 2010 and to discuss the future. Mickey Michaelis, who has done so much for Zane in this regard, warmly hosted us. After a fruitful discussion it was agreed that In order to deal with the continued growth of donations in Australia he will help us to process the formation of an independent Zane Trust in Australia. All being well this should be in place by the latter half of 2011.

### **Tasmania**

We were greatly encouraged by the warm reception and strong support we received during our visit to Tasmania.

Owen and Helen Tilbury had organized a busy program with Tom and Mike addressing a variety of audiences and included two film screenings, which were done under the auspices of the Tasmanian Breath of Fresh Air Film Festival.

Owen and Helen Tilbury are to be commended for the original idea and influencing so many people to attend. The idea of offering a million Zimbabwe dollars to everyone worked well. The results of their efforts speak louder than words and will benefit the lives of many Zimbabweans.

## **Sydney**

Two ex-Zimbabweans, Lindsay Sherman and Alex Reed decided to organize an evening of Trivial pursuit in Sydney as a means to fundraise for Zane. They put on a magnificent show. Please take the time to read the separate attachment which they compiled describing the evening.

## **Lessons learnt and a possible way forward**

Zane income in Australia has been derived from a number of functions and personal donations. The personal donations are a by-product of the functions and presentations

In 2010 we had a dinner and auction in Perth and a golf day in Brisbane and a number of presentations in Perth, Sydney and Brisbane.

In 2011 in Tasmania we had two film evenings and three Zane presentations, and in Sydney we had a trivia evening and a silent auction.

All these functions took a huge effort by a few people in each centre and we are forever in their debt.

In order to make Zane Australia sustainable we need to build a network of friends of Zane in each centre. If we can do this then each network will create its own energy and decide how to utilize that energy. There was a suggestion to use facebook to create the networks, which might work, if someone drives it. My own thoughts are that we must focus on attracting Australians to a function by providing something they need, and introduce Zane once we have the people in a room. What are the needs we can provide? We can aim at fun and entertainment through golf or trivia or using a celebrity.

If you have been interested in this newsletter please forward it to some of your friends.