

CHRISTMAS 2020

Dear Friend of ZANE

When we sent out our Christmas greetings last year, little did any of us know what horrors 2020 had in store!

Here in Australia we have been very fortunate through the course of the pandemic to have had such good leadership at both national and state level that, despite the bump in Victoria, the country can look forward to celebrating the festive season in a much more normal way than virtually anywhere else in the world. In saying this we acknowledge how tough it has been for many who have lost loved ones to the disease or, indeed, their jobs or businesses – we are mindful that great sacrifices have been made this year by all.

When we turn our thoughts to Zimbabwe, we see an unfolding tale of ever more hardship and woe – even without covid, the situation in the country was desperate, with inflation once again soaring and more than eight million people needing food aid. Inevitably, the number of people applying for assistance from ZANE has been never been higher.

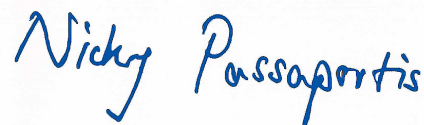
For ZANE Australia, 2020 started with a huge surge of people contacting us with offers of support and ideas for sponsored events, and we felt that we were set to gather large donations from intended events such as the Rottneest Swimming Challenge, city marathons, hikes across the US Continental Divide and the Old Legs Cycle Tour from Zimbabwe to Namibia.

Max Herscovitz and Brendon Lear duly completed the Rottneest Swim and raised a very tidy sum – well done and thank you to them. Sadly, however, all city marathons were cancelled, as was the Continental Divide hike and even the Old Legs Tour could not take place with its full complement of ex-Zimbos from around the world. The ride had to be rescheduled within Zimbabwe, with only Zim residents able to take part. In an amazing act of generosity, one of the would-be participants, Alan Crundall, got together with his extended family in Queensland and made a very substantial donation from the Crundall and Kenny families - a one-off amount to be used as emergency relief by the ZANE Zimbabwe teams during the lockdown in Zimbabwe – it was quite literally a life saver for many elderly folk who had no way of keeping food on their tables or buying medicine.

Apart from these one-off donations, the generosity and steadfastness of the regular ZANE Australia donors have been humbling to behold. While we expected donations to shrink throughout the pandemic and lockdowns, we have in fact witnessed them growing month on month and several times during the year we have been able to send more than our regular monthly transfer of money into Zimbabwe. Apart from the very obvious gratitude of the elderly who have been the recipients, the ZANE teams in Zimbabwe have been uplifted and inspired in their work knowing that there is so much goodwill out there and that people really do care and translate that care into action. There are no words to express strongly enough our gratitude to you, our donors.

With the promise of vaccines in the new year and perhaps a return to something resembling our once considered normal lives, we look forward to 2021 with hope.

I extend every good wish for a joyful festive season, and many thanks for the kindness and generosity of you all.



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