

ZANE Australia

Zimbabwe A National Emergency

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Dear Friend of ZANE

In 2016 ZANE Australia was almost totally dependent on its parent entity, ZANE UK, while we struggled to find our feet as a fledgling, newly registered not-for-profit company.

2017 has seen us take our first steps towards a measure of independence and we have witnessed the charity growing on all fronts. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our wonderful team of volunteer office holders and, more especially, our growing band of friends and donors – without your commitment, we would not be able to make any contribution at all to the amazing work that is carried out day to day in our beloved Zimbabwe.

As a new immigrant to Australia myself, I am mindful of the shared heritage of the two countries, which stretches back through early settlement from the UK and Europe. Thousands of men and women from both countries volunteered for the two World Wars, many making the ultimate sacrifice.

With the breakdown of the very fabric of Zimbabwean society, millions of Zimbabweans have sought refuge elsewhere and large numbers have made Australia their home. Many have made a great contribution to their adopted country in all spheres of life, but sport in particular comes to mind and one thinks of David Pocock and Kyle Godwin as Wallabies, Hilton Cartwright in the Ashes squad and Graeme Hick as the Australian batting coach.

The connections between the two countries continue and are aptly summed up in the words of a ZANE Australia donor who wrote to us recently: “we are so glad to have settled in this beautiful country and to have been welcomed by the wonderful Australians who have befriended us – we are part of a ‘new tribe’ whilst always keeping our ‘old tribe’ close in our hearts.”

Those left behind in Zimbabwe, including the elderly and the most vulnerable of society, find themselves victims of the still unfolding disaster, unable in many cases to even feed themselves.

Despite the recent political changes in the country, the situation remains desperate and it is ZANE's pledge to keep on walking alongside these people for as long as we are needed – to this end, we thank all our donors and encourage you to keep walking with us.

With every good wish for the festive season.

Nicky Passaportis

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