



ACN 613 802 574

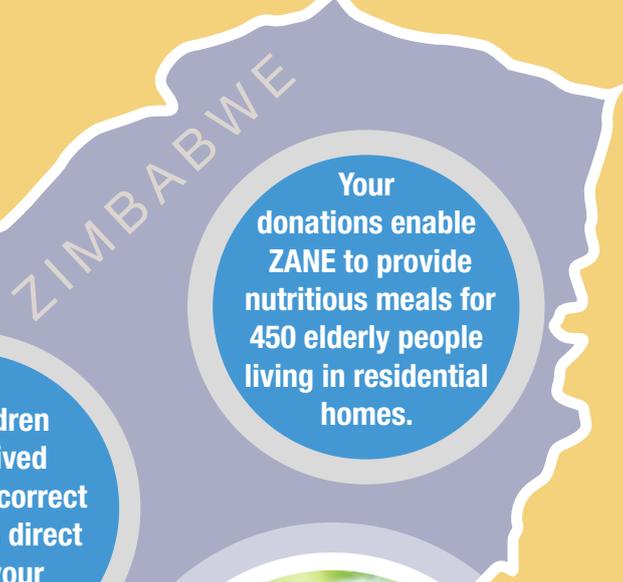
# ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency



ZANE distributes grants to over 600 war veterans and their widows.

2,623 children have received treatment to correct clubfoot as a direct result of your donations.

Your donations enable ZANE to provide nutritious meals for 450 elderly people living in residential homes.



## A heartfelt Thank You

In 1980, Rod Liddle was editor of the BBC's "Today" programme. When he interviewed Ian Smith, he asked him: "How will Mugabe do as leader?"

Smith replied: "He will be there for at least 30 years, he will murder or imprison all his opponents and bankrupt the country."

In an age when most pundits are hopelessly wrong, that was not a bad forecast!

During Mugabe's reign of theft, murder and corruption, monies that might have been spent on relief, education and health were plundered. For example, in the Marange diamond scandal, several billion dollars belonging to the Zimbabwean people allegedly

disappeared into the pockets of Mugabe's Greek chorus. Mugabe may now be gone but those who think that his replacement, Emmerson Mnangagwa, is the answer to all Zimbabwe's woes would do well to look at his violent history.

Of course, we all hope that Mugabe's departure will prove to mark a turning point for Zimbabwe. But the reality is that the poorest of the poor – and many served our Crown in WWII, Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Aden – are facing a perfect political storm: Mnangagwa will have to face the reality that the country has run out of money and unemployment is at 90%. Further, because the country has continually renege on its debts, it cannot raise money on the international markets. During the present dramas, the forgotten poor and aged are dying silently. Such has been the devastation of the economy, it will take years before Zimbabwe

can even begin to look after its own people.

In the meantime, it is business as usual for ZANE and its work of supplying essential humanitarian aid.

I'd like to thank our team in Zimbabwe for making this possible. Seeing such hardship on a daily basis takes its toll. Our team members tell me that turning away people in desperate need is the hardest part of the job, leaving them emotionally drained. However, they also tell me of the huge sense of pride they feel knowing that they are making a difference. For this, they ask me to thank you.

For without its loyal supporters, ZANE could not carry out its life-saving work. Thank you for your generous support over the last 12 months. Please read on to find out just what a difference your generosity is making.

Tom Benyon OBE

# Newsletter

summer 2017

## Water woes

Lynne, 71, worked in the restaurant industry for over 40 years until she had to retire to care for her elderly mother who suffered with dementia. After her mother died, Lynne tried hard to earn enough money to pay the bills – making and selling cakes and pastries. Now too crippled with arthritis to continue working, Lynne is struggling to survive in a country where the cost of basic essentials rises on a weekly basis.

Thankfully Lynne lives rent-free in her cousin's run-down house but she struggles to cover the bills. As a result, her water supply was recently stopped as she had no means of paying the bill. She now relies on the goodwill of neighbours for a small supply of water but even this is in jeopardy as the financial crisis worsens and her neighbours now ask



for payment for the water. The lack of such a basic human right is an indicator of just how bad living conditions have become in Zimbabwe for thousands of elderly people. ZANE is currently negotiating a repayment arrangement with the water company to try and reinstate Lynne's water supply.

**\$76**  
pays for a  
cataract operation  
for one  
pensioner.

## The rising cost of food

The situation in Zimbabwe is ever-changing and nowhere is this more apparent than in food prices. Between the end of September and the beginning of November, the cost of chicken rose by 40%, breakfast cereal by 51%, toilet roll by 86%, grapes by 101% and butter by an astonishing 125%.

For thousands of people already struggling to survive, these prices are having a devastating impact.



## Making a plan...

**... is a phrase people often use in Zimbabwe. One might question what more can be thrown at a country that has overcome so much in recent years? The answer, it would seem, is plenty.**

People queue at the bank for hours. The lucky ones manage to withdraw a maximum of \$50; the others are left to try again another day. The introduction of bond notes – effectively the old Zimbabwe dollar in a new guise – has done little to improve access to cash. The inevitable effect is that US dollars now carry a premium of up to 100%. A crash is on the horizon; people just wait and in the meantime **make a plan.**

**A report from ZANE's Head of Fundraising, who recently visited Zimbabwe where she met some of ZANE's beneficiaries.**

Fear of a return to 2008 and all that accompanied it is widespread and deep-rooted. Supermarket shelves are full... for now. With so little cash circulating, it's easy to envisage a return to the empty shelves that were commonplace at the height of the last economic crash. Prices are rising; \$9 for 500g of butter. Already, those who are able are joining forces to go on "food runs" to Mozambique where prices are significantly lower; **making a plan.**

The impact on the destitute and vulnerable people ZANE supports is palpable. Poverty is everywhere you turn. Pensioners are struggling with the rising cost of food and utilities. The inevitable health problems that will affect us all in the evening of our lives are often left untreated due to lack

of funds. School children arrive at lessons with empty tummies; nine-year-olds are easily mistaken for children three years younger due to malnutrition.

In the face of such hardship, it is hard not to feel anguish and despair. I certainly felt it a number of times. I met a 77-year-old lady, Lois, who recently spent three months in hospital following surgery for colon cancer. Left with a colostomy, she is struggling to obtain sufficient colostomy bags. She hasn't seen her 71-year-old sister for over a year since she left the country to work as a carer in the UK. Her 15-year-old grandson hasn't been to school for over three years as the family can't afford the school fees. Not so easy to **make a plan.**

# A good night's sleep

Ninety-two-year-old Rue has led a mostly happy and varied life. Rue's husband served as a Sergeant Major with the Rhodesian African Rifles in Malaya and Egypt, later working as a tailor. Rue had a successful career in fashion and they had a very comfortable and sociable life. Widowed in 2002, Rue then faced a second heartache when her and her husband's lifetime of hard work was wiped out in Zimbabwe's record-breaking hyperinflation.

Struggling to cope, thankfully Rue was bought to ZANE's attention by one of her late husband's former army colleagues. She qualified for an ex-services grant via the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, which she has been receiving annually since 2008.

Sadly, Rue is now in very poor health and cared for by her niece,

Mercy. "If my uncle was alive, I don't know what he would say. At least my aunt is benefiting from his service in a small way." Rue's dementia has worsened in recent months. She is now incontinent and struggling to feed herself.



Mercy is struggling to cope. ZANE has now arranged for Rue to be moved to a residential home, the fees covered by the generous support of ZANE donors. When we told Mercy, she responded through tears, "Thank you. For the first time, tonight I will sleep well."



ZANE is one of the most impressive charities I have seen. The charity provides practical support to the most vulnerable people and does so in a way that caters for their mental and physical needs. ZANE has a dedicated team that focuses on building relationships. ZANE staff ensure that every penny raised is used to deliver results.

**HE Catriona Laing CB**  
UK Ambassador to Zimbabwe

Numerous elderly people I met, including war veterans, told me they don't have enough to eat. Yet amongst the anguish and despair, there is hope and deep gratitude. "I could not have survived without ZANE" is a sentence I heard frequently over the 10 days of my visit. Lois was able to recover in hospital knowing ZANE was continuing to cover her rent and bills so she had a home to come back to.

**"The support from ZANE is the difference between living and existing"** is a quote from another pensioner I met that keeps me awake at night.

There was also great joy to be seen and had. Afternoon tea with three elderly sisters ZANE supports was filled with love and laughter as they reminisced



about the good times and forgot their troubles for an hour or two. Meeting a gentleman, Desmond, who recently received a new prosthetic leg after surviving for five years with just one leg was a delight. He is able to work again – a testament to the ability of ZANE to transform lives. His gratitude was humbling. Witnessing women who just a few years ago struggled to make eye contact – victims of horrific political violence and abuse – now teaching children to read and write with such exuberance is an image that will stay with me forever.

ZANE is not only transforming lives, it is saving them. War veterans and their widows are receiving essential medical care. A widow, Destiny, who recently arrived to collect her grant was so ill, it is a wonder she made

it to her destination. Quick intervention from a member of the team in Zimbabwe meant she was treated just in time. Another two days, the doctor said, and she wouldn't have made it. There are hundreds of stories like this. ZANE is saving lives and it is thanks to the generosity of its supporters. Please feel proud of what you have achieved and continue to achieve. I have seen first-hand the difference you are making and continue to make. It is vital.

I left Zimbabwe with a heart split in two. One half heavy with the hardship and abject poverty I witnessed. The other half full of joy and happiness to observe the positive impact ZANE is making to so many lives. We can't help everyone but please know that those we are able to help are filled with gratitude and hope.

**Like the people of Zimbabwe, we too can make a plan. A plan to help those who need us most.**

## Occupational therapy

Recently Jane had to undertake a huge move for an 84-year-old and relocate from a residential home in the Eastern Highlands to one in Bulawayo. With great difficulty, she packed up a life she had known for decades and moved. Jane



quickly became depressed and unhappy as she simply did not know anyone and had forgotten the art of making new friends.

Luckily, ZANE has quite recently introduced a programme of occupational therapy at some of the homes and Jane was encouraged to join the regular weekly session in the common room of the home where she lives. Tentative at first, she is now joining in and has made firm friends with 80-year-old Molly. Together they have enjoyed painting, flower arranging and learning about herbs. This programme of occupational therapy is about taking a creative approach to encouraging good mental and physical health. ZANE's work is about so much more than simply providing financial aid. It provides comfort,



advice and companionship, ensuring that the elderly people it cares for feel supported and able to cope with the challenging situations facing them.

Every single elderly person supported by ZANE is visited regularly and known personally. This vital work can only happen thanks to the generous support of ZANE donors. On behalf of Jane and her peers, thank you.

## Sustainable sound

ZANE is funding an audiologist to provide essential training to hearing



technicians at a children's hospital in Harare. With over 200 children on the waiting list for hearing aids, the hospital was struggling to see a way forward. With the new audiologist in place, it should take around six months to provide full training and clear the backlog. Thereafter, the technicians will be fully trained and

the audiologist will only be required for specialist cases, making this a fully sustainable project.



ZANE does invaluable, literally lifesaving work in Zimbabwe in providing essential support for those who can no longer help themselves - especially amongst our senior citizens. As ZANE extends its fundraising activities to Australia, I am pleased to

endorse the importance of its work and guarantee that the money raised goes where it is needed most. I encourage fellow Australians to support them generously.

**Matthew E K Neuhaus**

Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe

## Dinner for ZANE

One of our supporters in Western Australia invited 96 people to a dinner at her home. Despite thinking she might have "bitten off more than she could chew" she managed to raise over \$6,000 for ZANE and was "blown away" by the enthusiasm and encouragement she received from her small community. Thank you Lucy for a wonderful and inspiring effort.



**\$322**  
covers the cost  
of an entire  
clubfoot treatment  
for one child.

ZANE provides grants to enable people to establish small businesses in high-density areas.

## Changing lives forever

The ZANE-funded clubfoot correction programme has treated over 2,600 children to date; an achievement we should all feel very proud of. Poverty-stricken children who were facing a life of disability and discrimination can now walk, run, skip and play with their peers.





## Queuing for coins

A member of the ZANE team in Zimbabwe recently spent three hours in this queue only to receive this \$20-bag of bond coins. She was one of the lucky ones that day.



36 children who have never attended school are now learning to read and write.

ZANE provides a life-saving nutritional food supplement to hundreds of school children each year.



## Marathon man

Many thanks to David Wigg who completed the 2017 London Marathon for ZANE. David raised an incredible \$6,286. Well done, David.

Thanks also to all the schools who took part in our **Africa Day fundraiser** and allowed the pupils to come to school dressed in the colours of the Zimbabwe flag.



Do you have a link with a local school that could take part next year? Or do you have children or grandchildren who could take part in a fundraising event for ZANE Kids? Could your local church or rotary group get involved? If so, please do let us know.

## Pop-up classrooms

ZANE is funding pop-up classrooms in a high-density township in Zimbabwe. There are currently three classrooms with plans for another two in the coming months. Twelve children attend each class where they are taught basic numeracy and literacy, creative play, art, and health and nutrition. Each child is also taught basic farming skills, looking after a small plot to grow food for their families. The children are from very poor and often troubled families, and would otherwise be on the streets. Their parents cannot afford to send them to school and most arrive for classes with empty tummies.

ZANE is working alongside these children, building their confidence and helping them to feel loved. The children receive fresh water, fruit and a nutritional supplement each day. Soon, we hope to offer a cooked meal. The children are growing in confidence and are so eager to learn, making excellent progress.



## Teacher training

Each of the pop-up classrooms has two teaching mentors, women ZANE has been working alongside for a number of years through its creative therapy programme. They have been carefully chosen and are receiving weekly teaching mentor training in association with a partner organisation in Zimbabwe. In addition to the weekly training, various qualified trainers coach the women on specifics like narration, and reading and writing techniques, helping to equip the teachers with the skills and confidence required. Each is receiving a salary, enabling them to become self-sufficient.

To observe these women teaching children with such exuberance and confidence is a real joy and source of pride. It is testament to ZANE's ability to transform lives.



## A soldier's story

**Born in England in August 1924, Frank was a 15-year-old school boy in Ealing, London, when he heard British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announce:**

**“We are now at war.”**

Shortly after that, schools were closed and Frank spent the next month with a group of other teenage boys filling sandbags in Ealing. After that, he worked as a petrol pump attendant but the job came to an end when petrol rationing began and coupons dropped the demand for fuel. Frank moved to the workshops behind the garage where he fixed punctures. As soon as he turned 17, he volunteered for the RAF, took all the tests and was selected for aircrew training. Frank was too young, however, and was told to come back when he was 18. Soon after his 18th birthday, Frank received call-up papers and a travel warrant, and was told to report to an RAF station 50 miles away.

Frank spent the war as an RAF bomber pilot, flying Halifax bombers in the Ghost Squadron whose name was earned through its night bombing operations over Germany; ‘Hitler’s Haunters’ they were called. On his first flight over Düsseldorf, Frank remembers being fascinated by the fireworks display:

“Little coloured lights floating up towards the aircraft, speeding up and then bursting, accompanied by the sound of pings! It was of course bullets hitting the aircraft,” he chuckles. “All the holes had to be patched up when we returned to base.”

After the war, Frank was part of the occupying forces of Germany. The first thing he saw when he got off the boat was the view of Hamburg from the ground. “I was horrified at the mess we had made. There were mounds of rubble and the stench of death everywhere.”

Frank continued in the reserves and did other odd jobs, including a stint as a driving instructor. One evening, after the last driving

lesson, he asked the learner if she’d like to go for a beer. He chuckles as he says: “And she hasn’t stopped talking ever since!” She is his wife!

The couple emigrated to Africa where Frank had wanted to go ever since he was a child. He made his career in the airlines, working for many years as a commercial pilot in East Africa and finally ending up in Rhodesia.

After a lucrative career in the airlines, a lifetime of savings disappeared overnight when Frank and Kitty lost their money in Zimbabwe’s economic collapse. They sold all their assets and lived off the money as long as they could but hyperinflation rendered their pensions worthless and left them destitute. Their combined monthly UK pensions are £178, not even enough for their rent let alone their food or other expenses.

Frank recently collapsed and broke his hip. The doctors are pessimistic about his chances of walking again. With true fighting spirit, Frank is determined to prove them wrong. With the help of ZANE and a grant from the RAF Benevolent Fund, Frank has two carers assisting with his recovery.

“Without ZANE and the RAF we wouldn’t be here, it’s as simple as that,” Frank’s wife says.

You helped us provide  
112,320 eggs to destitute  
elderly people.

Your donations enabled  
ZANE to distribute  
a mammoth 5,200  
cabbages to residential  
homes for elderly  
beneficiaries.



There are many people in Zimbabwe who today remain in desperate need of help, through no fault of their own. ZANE is a dedicated charity devoted to providing a lifeline to these people. The ZANE team is hard-working and focused, bringing impressive results for the poorest and least advantaged, and is most worthy of our support.

**Jonathan Sheppard** Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe  
Board member, ZANE Australia

340  
impoverished  
women and  
children receive  
a nutritional  
food supplement  
every day.

# A new beginning

**Desmond**, 57, lost his leg in an accident in 1978. After suffering with pain and blisters from ill-fitting prostheses for most of his adult life, Desmond, has been struggling with just one leg for the last five years since the government hospital was no longer able to help. Unable to work, Desmond was forced to beg on the streets to survive.

ZANE was alerted to Desmond's plight earlier this year and arranged for him to see a very special man; one who has dedicated his life to helping those who have lost limbs. Mr C produces prosthetic limbs in a workshop in Bulawayo.

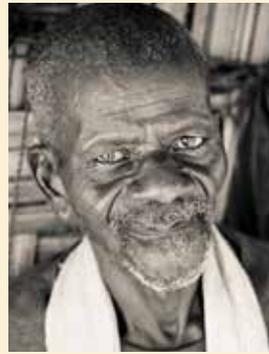
They are far from state-of-the-art but they are transforming the lives of people like Desmond.

Desmond received his new leg this summer and it has changed his life.



***“After five years of crawling and begging, I can work again and feed my family. You truly have changed my life. God bless you all.”***

Desmond is now working as a night watchman and enjoying the freedom his new leg has granted him.



# All that jazz

Vincent, 77, is a talented saxophonist. He spent years as a resident jazz artist in one of the finest hotels in Victoria Falls, enthraling crowds with his talent. Like so many fellow Zimbabweans of his generation, Vincent

lost his life savings in the economic collapse. A subsequent motorbike accident left him with restricted movement and in considerable pain, limiting his ability to make a living. A proud man, Vincent spent many years struggling to get by.

Escalating costs and declining health resulted in intervention from the ZANE team last year after one of Vincent's good friends alerted us to his situation. ZANE is able to contribute to the rent on his small cottage on a retirement complex and assist with medication for persistent problems with both of his legs. Thankfully, Vincent is still able to play his beloved saxophone and this brings him great joy.

Rarely seen without a smile on his face, Vincent told us, ***“I count my blessings every day. I am so grateful to be alive and for the kindness of strangers in my hour of need.”***

Please help the people of Zimbabwe continue to get vital aid and support

NEWS18

### 3 ways to give:

- **Donate online** – <http://zaneaustralia.org.au/donate/>
- **Call us:** +61 (0) 473 113 483
- **Or return this form to:**

ZANE Australia, 502/2 Scotsman Street, Forest Lodge, NSW 2037

Preferred use of gift: Trustees' Discretion , Pensioner Work , Impoverished Communities , Clubfoot

### I would like to donate:

- A single gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- A monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### My details:

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you first hear about ZANE Australia? \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to donate by:

- Cheque
- Credit card  Visa  Mastercard

Card Expiry  /  Cardholder's name \_\_\_\_\_

Card number:           3-digit Verification number:

- Online Direct Deposit to:

ZANE Australia Limited, BSB: 032023, Account: 305217 Payment Reference: your name \_\_\_\_\_



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Thank you for your support.



Having grown up in Zimbabwe and after many years of involvement with ZANE, I can state categorically that it is an excellent organisation. The team on the ground

know each individual they help, and they treat the old, sick and afflicted with kindness and compassion. I have no hesitation in recommending that you support this worthy cause.

**Henry Olonga**

Former Zimbabwe International Cricketer.

## Regular gifts

Thank you to our supporters who give a regular monthly, quarterly or annual donation. Regular giving enables us to plan our work and gives us the confidence to commit to long-term projects, knowing we have the funds to support them in the future.

## Reasons to support ZANE

- 1 **ZANE** provides aid, comfort and support to 1,800 impoverished pensioners with nowhere else to turn. Only those genuinely in need of assistance receive it.
- 2 Donors are able to choose which aspect of **ZANE's** mission they plan to support.
- 3 **ZANE** was recently the Telegraph Group Overseas Charity of the year.
- 4 **ZANE** is looking after over 600 aged and frail veterans and their widows. These men fought for the Crown in WW2, Malaya, Korea and Aden. Despite their loyal service to the UK, the overwhelming majority are living with insufficient food and limited healthcare.
- 5 **ZANE** runs education programmes in the high-density areas assisting women and children living in extreme poverty.
- 6 **ZANE** funded the first clubfoot correction programme in Zimbabwe. Eleven treatment centres have been established and over 2,600 children have received treatment to date.
- 7 **ZANE** receives no aid from the government and relies wholly on support from private donors.
- 8 **ZANE** funds the provision of prosthetic limbs for victims of landmine explosions and treatment for people with hearing loss.
- 9 **ZANE** funds are subject to rigorous audits and **ZANE** is proud that since its foundation it has never lost money to busted banks, middlemen or corruption.
- 10 An independent consultancy reviewed **ZANE** and the report stated: *"The charity thrives on its responsiveness, flexibility and lack of bureaucracy. Operationally ZANE is frugal, focused and effective in delivering aid to the needy."*



## Zimbabwe A National Emergency

ZANE, Suite 1A, level 2, 802-808 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

Tel: +61 466 580 127 email: zaneaustralialimited@gmail.com

[www.zaneaustralia.org.au](http://www.zaneaustralia.org.au)



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ZANE Australia, 502/2 Scotsman Street, Forest Lodge, NSW 2037

ZANE will not pass on your details to third parties.

If a specified project is fully funded, donations will be used where most needed.