A lion in the garden and a crocodile in the swimming pool; an otter called Potter that started life in the master bedroom and a hippo called Maggie that lived in the dam and snacked on half a loaf of bread and a bottle of beer. These are just some of the stories in Buckle's latest published narrative about iconic Zimbabwean conservationist Norman Travers. Buckle's book justifiably depicts the late Travers as a visionary and enduring optimist, and I found his biography a riveting read. I couldn't stop turning the pages as I discovered how Travers courageously went through two wars, eventually to be awarded an MC for bravery. Buckle vividly captures Travers' passion for wildlife as she relates how he pioneered maize and tobacco farming side by side with game animals. Her account of Travers hand rearing lions, elephants and leopards, and how he with his wife Gill built up Imire Game Park in Zimbabwe at a time when the country was ravaged by war: was dramatic and fascinating. Buckle writes with such expression and poignancy about black rhinos being decimated by poaching; and how Travers reared the calves at Imire, later releasing them back into the wild and winning a Wildlife Oscar for his efforts. Buckle's book is sheer entertainment. Imire is a humorous and unforgettable story of a remarkable man who loved life and his family, loved animals and above all loved his country. Don't miss it!

FOOTNOTE: Shortly before Norman Travers was buried on his farm, Imire, in eastern Zimbabwe, two 40-year-old bull elephants arrived unbidden, wandered through the crowd of 250 mourners, lumbered up to the coffin and sniffed it long and intently. When the last spadeful of earth had been cast on the grave, they stood together on the heap of ground he lay beneath. Three times in the ensuing week, they returned and stood by the grave. Travers’ family is convinced they were mourning, for elephants are known to have a fascination with death.

THE AUTHOR: Catherine Buckle or Cathy Buckle is a Zimbabwean writer and blogger living in Marondera, Zimbabwe. Buckle has written four books for children. Most recently she has written the non-fictional African Tears, the Zimbabwe Land Invasions, telling about her struggle after she lost her farm, and Beyond Tears, Zimbabwe's tragedy', when she returned to it two years later and it had been turned into a squatter camp. In 2009 she published Innocent Victims: Rescuing the Stranded Animals of Zimbabwe's Farm Invasions. Despite heavy pressures on writers by the Zimbabwean Government, Buckle writes a weekly e-mail telling of the current situation in Zimbabwe which is sent around the globe.


Purchase Price US $ 25.00.

Orders direct to Cathy Buckle: cbuckle@zol.co.zw