

Rhino Images - Art and the Rhinoceros



Lorraine Fildes and Robert Fildes

Rhino Images – Art and the Rhinoceros

First Edition, 2017

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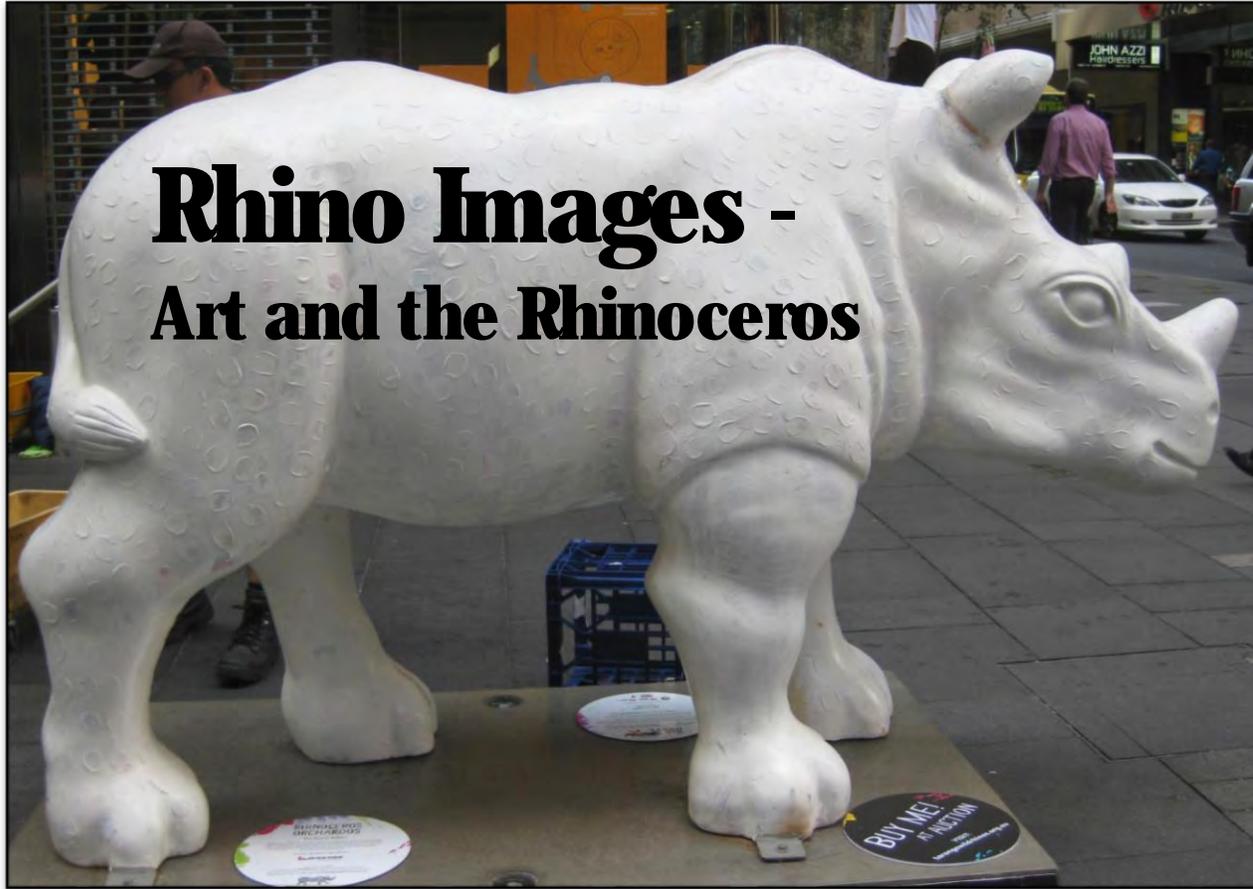
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Rhinoceros Orchardos design painted by Richard Allen.

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Preface

Rhino Images – Art and the Rhinoceros, First Edition, 2017.

This book shows the rhino in art - masterpieces from the ancient past to the present. There are over 300 rhino images in this book. The rhino images include drawings, paintings, etchings, rock carvings and sculptures done in a variety of materials. These images of the rhino range from early civilisations such as in China, Roman Empire, Indus civilisation in Pakistan/India area and from Southern Africa down to current day images of paintings and sculptures produced by modern day artists.

Whether in the ancient past or in the present the rhinos are always represented as huge, powerful and solitary animals. Drawings, woodcuts, etchings, paintings and sculptures of the rhino all depict the power of the animal. The text indicates where you may find these rhino images. For the artists of our time their websites have been given.

There are very few of these magnificent wild animals left in the world, so unless they are protected and managed, artistic images will soon be the only viewing option. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to saving the rhino from extinction.

Introduction

Rhino Images – Art and the Rhinoceros

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We were all moved by the plight of the rhino and wanted to help prevent its extinction.



© Robert Bateman

Power Play by Robert Bateman

Objectives

To show how art can make people more aware of nature and bring them not only to appreciate the artistic representation of the animal but to bring them to love the actual beast.

Background

Having seen all the wonderful painted sculptures of the rhinos in the rhino trail in Sydney we were driven to find out more about the beast. We were horrified to hear how near extinction the rhino species had become due to human exploitation. We followed another rhino trail in England and then sought the rhino out in zoos. We found out about the different species and where and how they lived now and where they existed in the past.

Development

The more we found out about the rhino the more we wanted to help the rhino come back from the brink of extinction. It was art that had made us aware of their plight and therefore we researched the past for images in different civilizations and moved forward studying the depiction of the rhino right up to today's images. There are numerous organisations working to save the rhino from extinction (<https://www.savetherhino.org/> <http://rhinos.org/> <https://www.helpingrhinos.org/> <http://theaustralianrhinoproject.org/>) and they can give you the latest statistics and also the latest methods used to protect the rhinos in the wild, therefore we have not included this information in the book. It would be outdated before the book could be published.

Acknowledgments

When we started this project and told people about it we were inundated with photos, and useful information about the rhino - all of which greatly aided our research. Our special thanks must go both to the Rhino Resource Centre based in Cambridge, England and Dr. Kees Rookmaaker who gave us great help and encouragement with our project.

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Rhino Images - Art and the Rhinoceros

Chapter 1 Falling in Love with Rhinos

Chapter 1 Falling in Love with Rhinos

The Taronga Zoo Rhino Trail

I never expected to fall head over heels in love, but that is just what happened as I was walking around Sydney in 2014. I loved the beautiful hand painted rhinoceros sculptures spread throughout the city - so I sought them out. I was in love with them. I sped home to get my camera and started my photo shoot.

Why were these rhinos in the city centre? It was called a rhino trail, set up for Taronga Zoo by a group called Wild in Art. This trail was organised to make people more aware of the impending extinction of these ancient and powerful animals unless worldwide breeding programs and conservation methods were undertaken by Zoos.

Artists, businesses, schools and community groups were invited to submit designs for painting on a life size rhino sculpture. A panel selected the designs they considered most appropriate and gave the successful contestants a life size sculpture to work on.

What are the vital statistics of the rhino models? The sculptures were designed by **Christopher Wilkinson**, Creative Director at Wild in Art. The full size models were 134 cm high x 225 cm long x 80 cm wide and weighed around 40 kg without their concrete plinth. They were made of fibre-glass with steel reinforcement. The life-size juvenile rhino sculpture models were 70 cm high x 122 cm long x 40 cm wide.

Will the painted Rhino models survive outside? Each sculpture was finished with a primer and was ready to paint. They were designed, decorated and varnished to permit outside display. The rhino models provided a stunning three-dimensional canvas for creative artists. The finished works of art looked spectacular on display. I hope my sculpture photos will inspire you to contribute to rhino conservation.

The complete Sydney rhino trail comprised a *herd* of 125 adult rhino and calf sculptures. Forty five of the rhino sculpture herd were auctioned, raising over A\$460,000 for Taronga Zoo's rhino breeding and field conservation projects. (The rhinos are actually housed at the Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, a branch of the Taronga Zoo in Sydney.)

Taronga Director, **Cameron Kerr** said: *We were overwhelmed by the generosity of bidders and delighted to see our colourful rhino sculptures find new homes, following their hugely popular time on the streets, in the parks and public places of Sydney and regional NSW. The Wild Rhinos project has taken wildlife conservation beyond the physical boundaries of our zoos, raising much-needed awareness and funds to support our rhino breeding and field conservation programs.*

The rhino sculptures in Sydney certainly captured my attention and made me aware of the plight of all rhinos. Now you may follow my rhino safari by viewing some of the images I took on my walk around Sydney. In each case the location is mentioned plus the artist's name and their statement about why they chose the design they painted on the rhino sculpture and in some cases information is provided by the curators of the exhibition about the artists.

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Rhino Survival

Artist: Ken Done

Location: Cruise Ship Terminal, Circular Quay.

Information provided by the curators of the exhibition: *Since his first solo exhibition in 1980, Ken Done has become one of Australia's most famous artists. His work has been described as the most original style to come out of Australia, and his paintings are in collections throughout the world. Ken was inspired to get involved with the project as he feels no rhinos will survive unless we look after them.*

Golden Baby

Artists: Ken Done and Cam Wall

Information provided by Ken Done and Cam Wall: *The golden rhino is to signify the importance of these precious and magnificent creatures and why we have to do everything we can to preserve them.*

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People Takeover the Wild Rhino

Artist: Kevin Connor and Paul Connor

Location: Sydney Opera House

Kevin and Paul Connors' statement: *Our rhino could signify the impact humanity at large has had on its species, or it could be that it has merely evolved a new camouflage (and shadow) to better survive our world. I think in reality we both found an unusual blank canvas on which to have some fun!*

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The Hatching

Artists: Meredith Besseling and the Kennards Hire Team

Location: Wynyard Station

Information provided by Meredith Besseling and the Kennards Hire Team: *The rhino is hatching out of an egg into a myriad of colours, representing hope for the future of the Rhino and that we can help the process of protecting and growing the numbers of wild Rhinos.*

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Sunrise - Wake up with Friends

Artists: Channel Seven Sunrise Crew

Location: Martin Place

Information provided by the curators of the exhibition: *This rhino is the inspiration of the Channel Seven Sunrise crew. Samantha Armytage and Simon Reeve are ambassadors for 'Taronga Wild! Rhinos', a community art project.*

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All Patched Up

Artist: Lynley Kirkness

Location: Hyde Park North

Lynley Kirkness's statement: *My idea grew from my frustration with people only patching one small problem at a time instead of looking at the big picture about solving our animal and environmental issues. It also represents the patchwork of animal DNA needed to bring back species from extinction like the project to bring back the thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) and I hope the rhino does not end up one species future generations have to try and 'bring back' from extinction.*

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Chupa Chup

Artist: Rain Hart

Location: Hyde Park Barracks

Information provided by Rain Hart: *Since 1958, Chupa Chups stood out from other sweets using their unique point of sale displays that are eye catching and creative. As the logo evolved, the Chupa Chups style remained the same: true to its roots of being colourful, quirky and fun.*

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Camouflage

Artist: Hans Hulsbosch

Location: Martin Place

Information provided by Hans Hulsbosch: *Our rhino has been painted as a zebra. The design plays with the idea of disguising the rhino as a large herd animal and intends to highlight that poachers are ignorant and stupid enough to be fooled by the camouflage. Today, there are less than 24,500 rhinos surviving in the wild, down from about 1 million at the turn of the century. This is our public plea to get involved in saving these 50 million year old creatures that future generations may never see in the wild.*

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Put a Lid on it

Artist: Jane Gillings

Location: Royal Botanic Gardens

Information provided by the curators of the exhibition: *Although Jane Gillings' work can range from detailed realism to large scale sculptural installations, the themes presented are always the same; consumption and loss.*

Information provided by Jane Gillings: *If only traditional medicine could be made using ground up plastic lids.*

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My Rhino's Keeper
Artist: Sam Chin
Location: Martin Place

Information provided by Sam Chin: *The rhino I have designed will incorporate many common tattoo designs as to create an abstract tattoo distinction in one's mind. It will use common designs such as the Japanese Koi fish, the Dragon, the Sparrows, the Mexican 'Day of the Dead' skull, the traditional mum/heart tattoo and many script tattoos.*

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Home and Away

Artist: Cam Wall

Location: Pitt St. Mall – Market Street

Information provided by the curators of the exhibition: *From the sands of Summer Bay, this Wild Rhino exemplifies the feel of Australia's favourite serial drama. Designed with a sense of fresh summer fun, this rhino is complete with autographs from your favourite 'Home and Away' stars.*

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The Paignton Zoo Rhino Trail

After following the rhino trail in Australia I then discovered a rhino trail in England. *The Great Big Rhino Project* was also organised for Paignton Zoo in the west of England by *Wild in Art*, the same organization that arranged the Australian rhino trail. The Paignton Zoo trail comprised a *herd* of 40 rhinos painted by well known artists of the area and 53 painted by Schools and Community groups. The painted rhinos were on display in Exeter and the surrounding English West Country Riviera from July to October 2016. On the 3rd November 39 of the rhinos were auctioned off and this raised £123,000 GBP. All funds raised were to be used for rhino conservation.

Like the Australian event *The Great Big Rhino Project* was a mix of art, education and conservation. The life-size model rhinos (same size and chemical mix as those used in the Australian rhino trail), were sponsored by businesses and community groups, some were painted by the groups whilst some organisations commissioned well known artists to paint their rhinos for them. Each artist explained why they chose their special design.

The English rhino trail, as in Australia, was set up to make people aware of the problems surrounding rhino preservation worldwide. These beautifully painted rhinos placed in shopping malls and on the streets of Exeter certainly made people stop, look and ask, *Why are these sculptures here?*. The answer is that rhinos have been around for thousands of years and are an important part of the ecosystems in Africa and Asia but they are now threatened and near extinction. They will not survive without massive and urgent action. We must not let them join the dodo and Thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) in extinction!

For many years human population increase has reduced the natural habitat areas used by rhinos. This has, of course, affected the numbers of these animals. But nowadays poaching is the main reason for their current dramatic decline. The rate of poaching has escalated so rapidly that rhino deaths have overtaken births. The rhino crisis is one the most urgent animal conservation priorities and the money raised by the rhino auction will help in rhino conservation and also the trail has helped in increasing the awareness of the general public to the crisis facing the rhinos.

Following are some of the photos I took of the Paignton Zoo rhino trail. In each case the location is mentioned plus the artist's name and their statement about why they chose the design they painted on the rhino sculpture.

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Stella

Artist: Sue Misselbrook

Location: Paignton Zoo – outside the main entrance.

This design is the result of a staff competition at Paignton Zoo. Following is Sue Misselbrook's statement: *The inspiration came from the night sky and in particular the night sky in Zimbabwe which is so clear you can see a truly amazing number of stars; it's an incredible sight. The design features constellations which represent animals such as the hare, lion, peacock and includes mythical beasts such as the unicorn which stands behind the Indian rhino. The background to the constellations includes the Milky Way and the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).*

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Glimpses

Artist: Stuart A. Wright

Location: Guildhall Shopping Centre, Exeter.

Stuart A. Wright's statement: *The design for 'Glimpses' features delicately airbrushed images of an adult and juvenile rhinoceros surrounded and intersected by multi-tonal colour blocks. The placement of the images and interruption of the vivid blocks make reference to the sparsity of the animals in their natural habitat.*

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Targeted

Artist: Miss*C – Cleo Heard

Location: Exeter St. David's Railway Station.

Information provided by Cleo: *The inspiration of "Targeted" is to show that all five rhino species worldwide are threatened by extinction. Using targets is a very dramatic way of displaying the plight of these wonderful animals. They are killed for their horns, which are highly prized in traditional Oriental medicine.*

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Dino Rhino

Artist: Jessica Miller

Location: Exeter Cathedral.

Jessica Miller's statement: 'Dino Rhino' depicts a range of extinct and prehistoric animals, from the dinosaurs to the woolly mammoth. The artist highlights different creatures that have been lost with time. Do we really want the rhino to be just another distant memory?

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All Creatures Great and Small

Artist: Laura Tutton

Location: Harlequins Shopping Centre - Exeter.

Laura Tutton's statement: *This design represents all of the wonderful creatures that the world has to offer. Paignton Zoo and the artist's love for animals was the main inspiration for this rhino. After visiting Paignton Zoo she wanted to recapture its spirit and for all the species in the animal kingdom to come together and celebrate. No less than 40 different animals feature in this design.*

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Cath
Artist Steve Dooley
Location: Southernhay Gardens, Exeter.

Steve Dooley's statement: Exeter Cathedral is an iconic building that is preserved for generations to come. Rhino preservation is also paramount and 'Cath' reflects the correlation of the two via the stone of the building and the skin of the rhino. The intricate work of the stonemasons is cleverly transferred to 'Cath' with mural effects to give her a dimensional and imposing appearance.

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Symbiosis

Artist: Ignacia Ruiz

Location: Princesshay, Exeter.

Ignacia Ruiz's statement: *This design is inspired by the symbiotic relationship between the rhino and the oxpecker bird. They live in co-dependence as the bird relies on the rhino's parasites for food and in turn the rhino benefits from being parasite free.*

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Hope

Artist: Sue Misselbrook

Location: Exeter Quay.

Sue Misselbrook's statement: *'Hope' represents the problems with poaching and cruelty to the rhino. 'Who cares about rhinos?' is the question. 'Hope' is that we do care and will try to stop the medical use of rhino horn - a use based on misconception.*

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AquamaRhino

Artist: Mandii Pope

Location: Princesshay, Exeter.

Mandii Pope's statement: *Here the two rhino sides are contrasted. On the left, deep sea, healthy fish and a rhino that is free. On the right, the killing of the fish being caught in the nets, which is mirrored on land with rhinos being caught and killed for their horns.*

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Finding Faru

Artist: Miss*C – Cleo Heard.

Location: Southernhay Gardens, Exeter.

Cleo Heard's statement: *The rhino is camouflaged in abstract African leaves, and within the leaves you find 'Faru' – the brightly coloured African painted rhino. The idea is that everyone has fun – first, you have to find the Great Big Rhino, then find the rhino on the rhino – reminding us just how hard it will be to find rhinos soon if we don't do anything to help. Can you spot the rhino painted on the rhino above?*

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George

Artist: Jackie Kidd

Location: Paddington Railway Station – London.

Jackie Kidd's statement: *The design is inspired by railway poster art describing the 'Cornish Riviera'. The illustration highlights areas in southwest England where the Great Big Rhinos were situated and focuses on the area's natural beauty and landmarks.*

Paddington Station is the main gateway to the southwest by rail and the rhino's name has been influenced by George Stephenson – known as the *father of railways* in the 1800s. He had the foresight to recommend one size of gauge – *standard gauge* - for railway tracks knowing that one day they would all be interconnected. This particularly affected lines out of Paddington as they were originally built as *broad gauge*.

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Badak

Artist: Jackie Kidd

Location: Temple Meads Station, Bristol.

Jackie Kidd's statement: *This rhino is inspired by 1950s travel poster art. The design depicts stylized images of Java and Sumatra showing an exotic part of the world where rhinos are close to extinction. Javan rhinos are the most threatened of the five rhino species. The name, 'Badak', means rhino in Indonesian – a 'gift from the gods'.*

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Rhino Images -

Art and the Rhinoceros

Chapter 2 Seeking Out Rhinos

Chapter 2 Seeking Out Rhinos

Zoo Visits

Having followed two rhino sculpture trails I then decided to follow a live rhino trail. There are five species of rhinos surviving on earth. Two species: Black and White both occur in Africa. The other three species occur in Asia. Firstly there is the Greater One-horned Indian Rhino found in northern India and southern Nepal. Secondly and thirdly there are the Javan and Sumatran species, both of which are found only in Indonesia. Only three of the five rhino species can be found in zoos. They are the Black and White rhinos and the Greater One-horned Indian Rhino.

Three points of interest:

1. The name rhinoceros comes from the Greek and means *nose horn* and is often shortened to *rhino*. The horn is made of keratin, which is the same material as human fingernails and hair.
2. There is no colour difference between white and black rhinos – both being dark grey. So why are they called *black* and *white* rhinos? The *white* may have resulted from a mistranslation of the Afrikaans word *wyd* meaning *wide* - white rhinos' lips are wide and flat for grazing. For black rhinos, they were simply called this to distinguish them from white rhinos.
3. A group of rhinos is called a crash. Only the white rhinos are known to form a crash.

My personal safari was to visit zoos that had rhinos in captivity so that I could observe and photograph these magnificent animals. Zoos now aim to give rhinos environments similar to what they would experience in the wild. Even if the animals cannot be seen all the time they are now treated in a humane way making a visit to the zoo enjoyable for us and a reasonable life for the rhino.

The first rhino I saw was at Auckland Zoo in New Zealand. It belonged to the white rhino species. I then photographed white rhinos at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, Perth Zoo and Werribee Zoo in Australia, Whipsnade Zoo in England and Singapore Zoo. The black rhino was photographed at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, and Paignton Zoo in England. The Greater One-horned Indian Rhinos were photographed at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, Edinburgh Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo. All the zoos had signs giving both general information plus details about their particular rhinos. I have included some of this information but have retyped the signs for easier reading. For detailed information and the latest news on rhinos visit: <https://www.savetherhino.org/>

Before visiting the Zoos with me to observe the rhinos that I have photographed see the two tables I have drawn up to highlight similarities and differences among the 5 rhino species. The tables include physical, social and breeding characteristics.

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Physical characteristics	White rhino	Black rhino	Greater One-horned Indian rhino	Sumatran rhino	Javan rhino
Horn - made of keratin like human fingernails and hair	2 horns: anterior horn 0.94 – 1.02 m posterior horn up to 0.55 m	2 horns: anterior horn 0.5 – 1.3 m posterior horn 0.02 – 0.55 m	1 horn: 0.20 – 0.60 m	2 horns: anterior horn 0.25 – 0.79 m posterior horn 0.10 m	1 horn – usually less than 20 cm Females often just have a knob
Hearing and Sense of Smell	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Eyesight	Weak - nearsighted	Weak - nearsighted	Weak - nearsighted	Weak - nearsighted	Weak - nearsighted
Hair	Hair on ears, tail tips and eyelashes	Hair on ears, tail tips and eyelashes	Hair on ears, tail tips and eyelashes	Body covered in short bristly hair	Hair on ears, tail tips and eyelashes
Colour	Dark grey	Dark grey	Ash grey	Reddish brown	Grey brown
Skin	1.5 to 5 cm thick – sensitive to sunburn and biting insects - wallow in mud to protect skin	1.5 to 5 cm thick – sensitive to sunburn and biting insects - wallow in mud to protect skin	1.5 to 5 cm thick – sensitive to sunburn and biting insects - wallow in mud to protect skin	1.5 to 5 cm thick – sensitive to sunburn and biting insects - wallow in mud to protect skin	1.5 to 5 cm thick – sensitive to sunburn and biting insects - wallow in mud to protect skin
Speed	Reach speeds of 50 km/h	Reach speeds of 50 km/h	Reach speeds of 40 km/h	Reach speeds of 40 km/h	Estimated speed 40 km/h
Size and weight	Largest in size: weigh 1,800 - 2,700 kg height 1.5 – 1.8 m length 3.8 – 5 m	Third largest in size: weigh 800 - 1,350 kg height 1.5 – 1.8 m length 3 – 3.8 m	Second largest in size: weigh 1,800 - 2,700 kg height 1.75 – 2 m length 3 – 3.8 m	Smallest in size: weigh 600 - 950 kg height 1 – 1.5 m Length 2 – 3 m	Estimated size: weigh 1,587 kg height 1.8 m Length 3.7 m
Lifespan	40 to 50 years	30 to 40 years	40 to 50 years	30 to 45 years	Estimated 30 to 40 years
Swimming ability	Cannot swim as their head point downwards - lay in shallow water to cool down	Able to swim	Good swimmers – and can dive and feed underwater	Good swimmers	Good swimmers
Food – all rhinos are vegetarians	Square-mouthed, feed by grazing on grasses	Prehensile upper lip which is designed for grasping and eating foliage	Prehensile upper lip – mainly graze but also browse - known to feed on aquatic plants while in the water	Prehensile upper lip - browsers and feed on leaves and fruits in their tropical habitat	Prehensile upper lip - browse on plants, twigs, and fruit
Habitat	Tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands	Grasslands, savannahs and tropical bushland	Grasslands and riverine forests	Lowland secondary rainforest, swamps and moss forests	Dense rainforest
Current geographical range	Found in National Parks in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe & Kenya	Found in National Parks in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania & Kenya	Found in National Parks in Nepal, India and Assam	Found in National Parks in Indonesia, Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo	Only found in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java Indonesia

Social and breeding characteristics	White rhino	Black rhino	Greater One-horned Indian rhino	Sumatran rhino	Javan rhino
Social interaction	Female and subadults are social and can be found together in a crash or herd - males are mainly solitary and territorial – males usually only associate with the female when she is sexually receptive	Most aggressive of all rhino species - males are solitary and territorial - female home ranges overlap and are therefore less solitary – males only associate with the female when she is sexually receptive	Males are solitary and loosely territorial - only associate with the female when she is sexually receptive	Males are solitary and territorial – only associate with the female when she is sexually receptive	Javan Rhinos are generally solitary animals and have loosely defined territories
Communication sounds	Snorts, honks and roars	Snorts, honks and roars	Snorts, honks and roars	Snorts, honks and roars	Snorts, honks and roars
Territorial marking	Yes – dung and urine	Yes – dung and urine	Yes – dung and urine	Yes – dung and urine	Yes – dung and urine
Female sexual maturity	6 to 7 years	4 to 7 years	5 to 7 years	6 to 7 years	Unknown
Male sexual maturity	7 to 10 years	7 to 10 years	approximately 10 years	approximately 10 years	Unknown
Gestation period	Around 16 months	Around 15 to 16 months	Around 15 - 16 months	Around 15 - 16 months	Unknown
Number of calves	One calf every 2 to 3 years - calf will stay with the mother from 1.5 to 3 years	One calf every 2.5 to 4 years - calf will stay with the mother from 1.5 to 3 years	One calf every 1 to 3 years - calf will stay with the mother from 1.5 to 3 years	One calf every 3 to 4 years - calf will stay with the mother from 1.5 to 3 years	Unknown
Weight of calf at birth	Birth weight is 40 kg to 60 kg - a calf drinks on average 20-30 litres of milk per day and grows by 1-2 kg daily	Birth weight is 35 kg to 45 kg - a calf drinks on average 20-30 litres of milk per day and grows by 1-2 kg daily	Birth weight is 58 kg to 70 kg - a calf drinks on average 20-30 litres of milk per day and grows by 1-2 kg daily	Birth weight is 40 kg to 50 kg - a calf drinks on average 20-30 litres of milk per day and grows by 1-2 kg daily	Unknown
Newborn weaned	Start feeding on roughage at the age of 2 months but continue to be suckled for up to 1 year	start feeding on roughage at the age of 3-5 months but continue to be suckled for up to 2 years	Start feeding on roughage at 18 months but continue to be suckled for up to 2 years	Start feeding on roughage at 16 to 18 months but stay with mother for up to 2-3 years	Unknown

White Rhinos

My first image of a live rhino was at Auckland Zoo, New Zealand. He was a white African rhino. This rhino was most co-operative, moving freely around his large enclosure. Obviously well cared for and provided with all the necessary space, food and habitat required. It was alone, but male rhinos are typically solitary animals so this would not have been a problem for him. I was lucky to take my photos of the rhino early in the morning when I first arrived at the Zoo. When I returned in the afternoon the rhino was nowhere to be seen – perhaps having a siesta in his shelter!

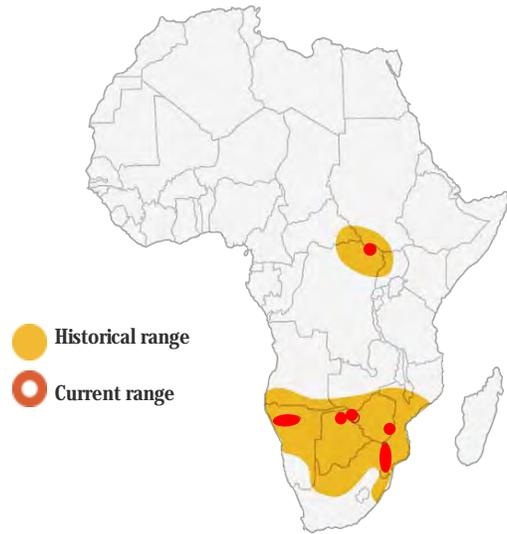


Yes the white rhino has a magnificent horn but it is made of keratin like our fingernails and it does not have magical curative properties.

I am still in love with the rhino! My heart goes out to the poor beast that is being hunted to extinction by humans.

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Note the Dramatic Change in the Historical and Current Territory of the White Rhino in Africa.



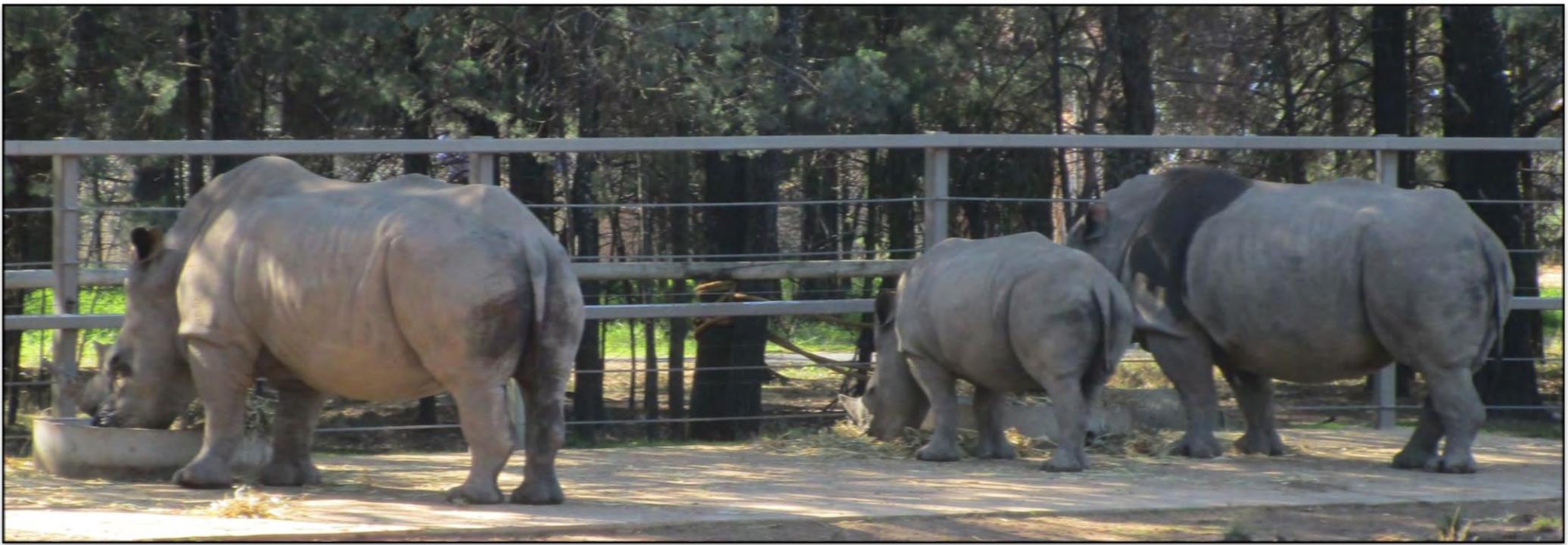
© The Rhino Foundation

**Look out!
Or you will get wet!**

(White rhino at Auckland Zoo.)



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White Rhinos at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo – the family were all busy eating. Unlike the solitary Black rhino, white rhinos form complex families and hence you see them dining together.





This strong metal cage, obviously used to transport rhinos, was outside one of the White Rhino enclosures at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo.



White rhinos resting at Werribee Zoo in Victoria, Australia. Elands are resting near the rhinos and two geese are strolling nearby.

We took a 40 minute Safari Tour around the stunning open savannah of Werribee Zoo. Giraffes, elands, ostriches all share this area with the rhinos.



Two ostriches were resting next to a midden of rhino dung. The strong smell of the dung makes other animals aware that they are in rhino territory – the ostriches rest near the dung as they know that no other wild animal will come too close fearing the rhinos are nearby.

White rhino at Perth Zoo. As usual there is plenty of mud on the animals hide.





**White rhino
crash at
Whipsnade Zoo,
England.**



A good scratching pole?

White rhinos love wallowing in mud and here you can see the skin coated with mud. Their skin is actually very sensitive and the mud helps protect them from UV radiation and insect bites.

Location: Whipsnade Zoo, England.

White Rhinos at Singapore Zoo

At Singapore Zoo in the morning the whole crash were just laying in the shade. I photographed mother and calf lying together with numerous birds sitting on them. The birds often clean vermin off the rhinos' skin.

I wanted to get some photos of the rhinos moving around so when I found out that 1.15 pm was their feeding I decided to return at that time.





A rhino enjoying wallowing in the mud at Singapore Zoo.

The rhinos on the move towards their feeding spot at the Singapore Zoo.





**Close up of a
white rhino calf
at Singapore
Zoo.**



Feeding time for the white rhinos at the Singapore Zoo.

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Some of the information signs for the white rhino found at Auckland, Dubbo, Perth, Whipsnade and Singapore Zoos.

Wide Mouthed Rhino

White rhinos feed mostly on grass. Their lips are wide and flat – a useful shape when you're trying to crop the greenest grass from close to the soil. The black rhino feeds mostly on leaves which it strips from the trees using its flexible pointed lips. Rhinos have a super-tough digestive system and can eat plants that are poisonous to other animals.

The Nosey Name

'Rhinoceros' comes from the Greek words 'rhino' and 'ceros' which means 'nose' and 'horn'. This refers to the horn that grows on the top of its nose! People often call the rhinoceros 'rhino' in short.

Scientists also keep a database of the exact chemical profile of horn samples taken from rhinos living in many different areas. The food a rhino eats changes depending on where it lives – and that affects the chemicals in its horn. This database can help us work out where a confiscated horn has come from and is good evidence for prosecuting poachers. Eventually this will help us restrict this illegal trade.

A rhino's most distinctive feature – its horn – is also its biggest problem. Although it is made from keratin – a protein, and the same stuff your fingernails and hair are made of – and has no medical properties, it is highly prized in traditional Chinese and Vietnamese medicine and for ornamental dagger handles in the Middle East. So people will risk their lives to get hold of it. Unfortunately, "getting hold of it" usually means killing the rhino.

Some of the information signs for the white rhino found at Auckland, Dubbo, Whipsnade and Singapore Zoos.



Rangers keep track of the rhinos in their sanctuaries by notching their ears to make them easy to identify by sight. Rhinos translocated (moved) from elsewhere are also carefully monitored in their new homes by fitting them with a radio transmitter embedded in their horn.

A Special Horn

Unlike other horned mammals, the rhino's horns grows on its nose and not on its skull. Sometimes, the rhino's horn drops off in a tussle. Thankfully, it will regrow over time! To protect the rhinos, some park rangers remove their horns. Others inject poison into the horns to make them unattractive to poachers.

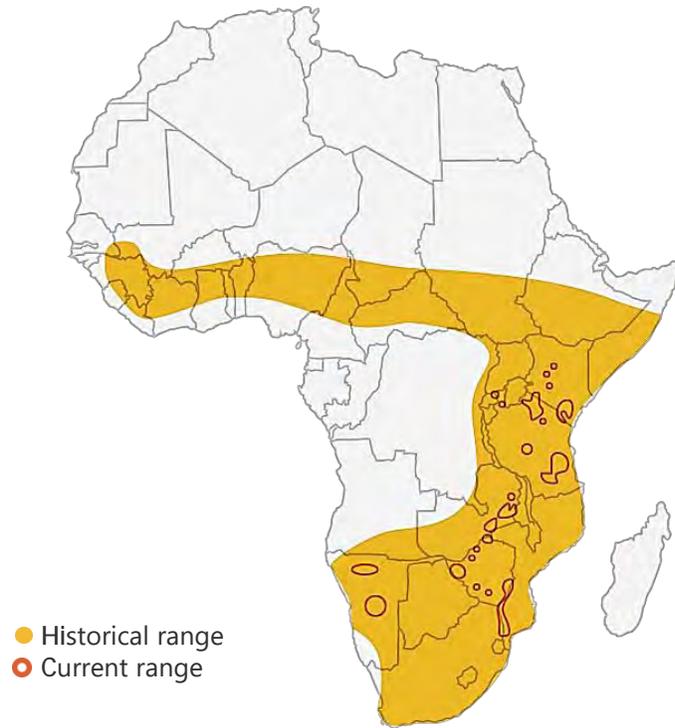
They might look large and clumsy but a white rhino can charge at 55 kph if it puts its mind to it! They can change direction pretty well too so don't try to outrun one – you're better off climbing a tree.

[Click here to go back to chapter headings.](#)

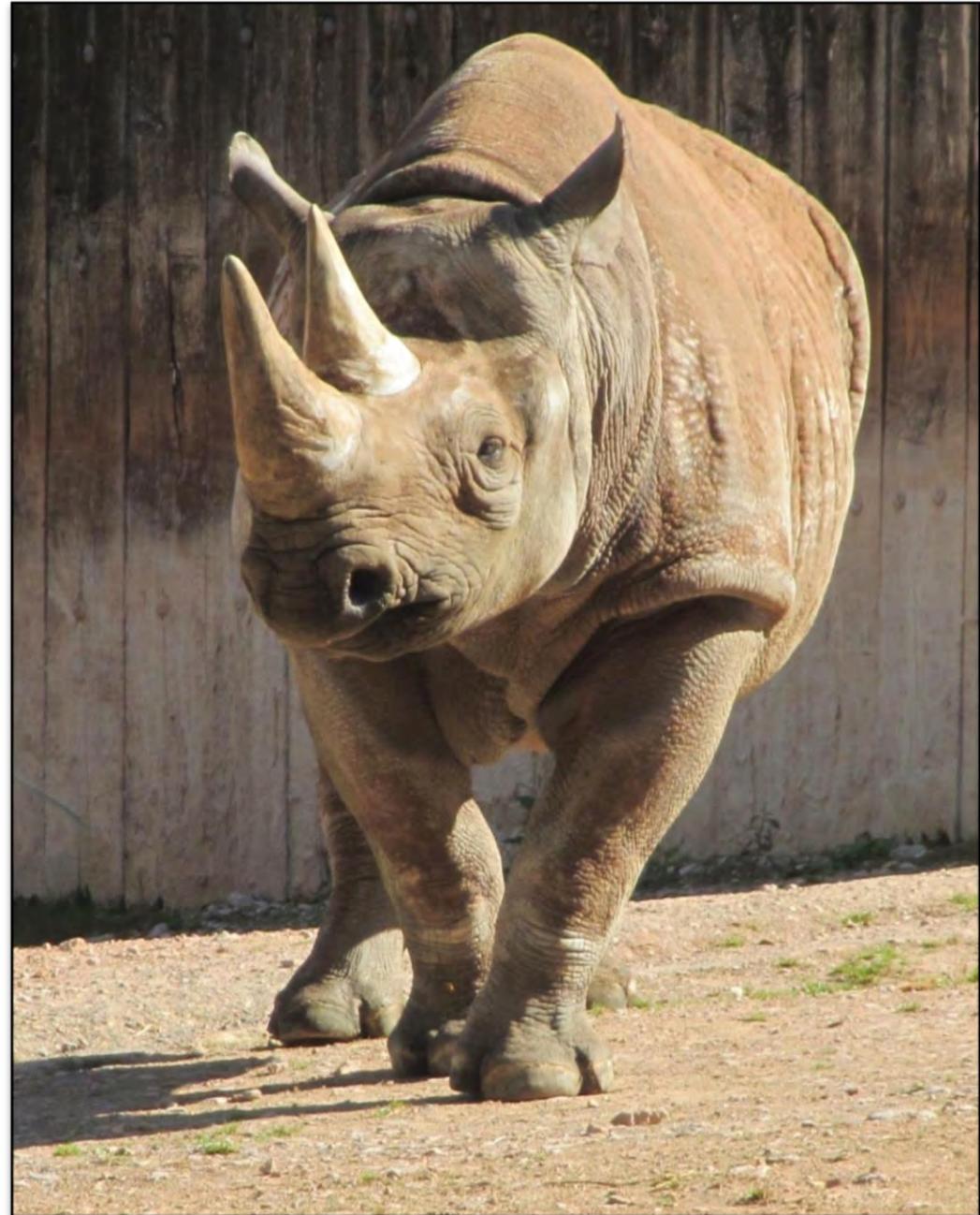
Black Rhinos

I photographed my first black rhino at Paignton Zoo in England. They had two magnificent specimens – a female and a male. The adjacent photo shows the two large horns that the female ‘Sita’ possessed.

Note the Dramatic Change in the Historical and Current Territory of the Black Rhino in Africa.



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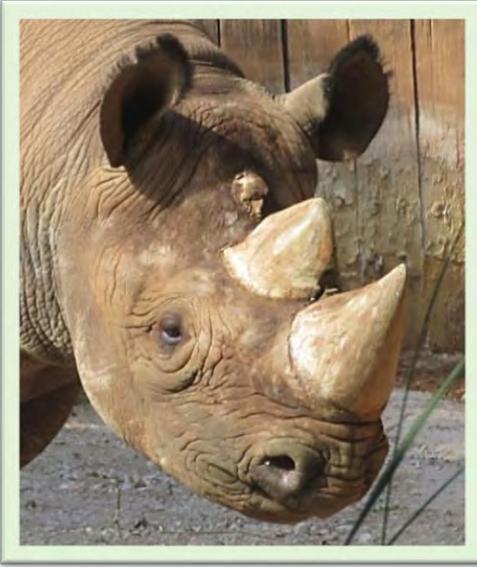


**Manyara – the male rhino.
Such a gentle and sad looking creature
– how could anyone chop off its horns
and leave it to die in agony!**

Some of the information signs for the black rhinos at Paignton Zoo.

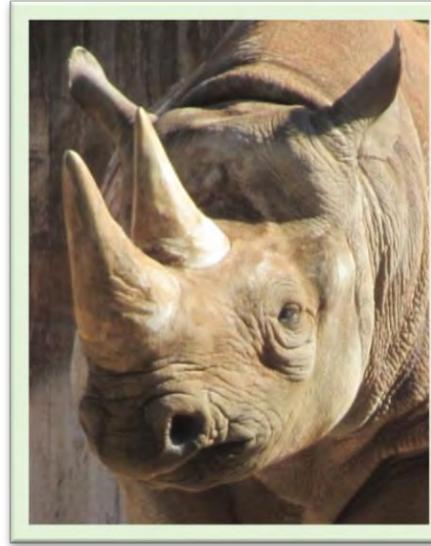
Black Rhino at Paignton Zoo

Our black rhinos are part of a European zoos' breeding programme. However, black rhinos are usually solitary in the wild so Manyara is kept separate from Sita for most of the time.



Manyara

Male - Manyara came to Paignton Zoo from Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent, where he was born in Sept 2002. He weighs 1.1 tonnes and can easily be recognized by the extra horn he has on his head. He has a calm and friendly character.



Sita

Female - Sita came to Paignton Zoo in 2002 from Berlin Zoo, where she was born in October 1990. She has a large pointed horn which she shapes herself by rubbing it on rocks and logs.

Habitat: Scrubland and grassland.

Wild Diet: Browse (leaves and twigs).

Behaviour: Rhinos have poor vision but good hearing - they can pick up the quietest sounds by swivelling their ears. However, it is their sense of smell that they most rely upon for knowledge of their surroundings.

Breeding: A single calf is born after a gestation of 15-16 months.



Black Rhino eating gum leaves at Dubbo Western Plains Zoo. After finishing dining the solitary male black rhino wanders around the very large enclosure.

