



Patrons: The Lord McAlpine of West Green, David Gower OBE, Bryce Courtenay AM, Nick Price

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There continues to be political uncertainty within the Unity Government, with Zanu PF continuing to call the shots whilst the power of the Prime Minister seems to have been reduced. Even the intervention of President Zuma hasn't had the desired effect that was hoped and expected. Meanwhile, the US\$ currency has stabilized the economy considerably and the shops have sufficient food and other goods for those with money to be able to buy—sadly, the great minority.

Zimbabwe rhino conservation has been in the public eye in the last twelve months more so than ever before. With more than 200 reported rhino deaths in the last three years and only a 3% conviction rate for those charged with these offences, the **International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN)** called for an enquiry into the situation. Over the last six months, much data has been gathered and tabulated and reported and in February, the **Secretary-General of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**, accompanied by his senior law enforcement officer, visited Zimbabwe for five days of thorough investigations. They met with numerous relevant authorities and personnel, and came away with sufficient information for a thorough report to be given at the recent CITES meeting in Doha—see elsewhere. (*If any of our readers would like an electronic copy of the IUCN rhino report, then simply ask me for one.*)

For our newer readers, it is worth recapping on the rhino situation over the past 40 years. In **1972** there were **65,000** black rhinos roaming around Africa. By **1987** this number had reduced to only **3,500!** This was as a result of rampant poaching through Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, with Zimbabwe remaining as the largest rhino custodian with **2,500**. Between 1985 and 1993 Zimbabwe came under heavy threat and the numbers reduced to a mere **290**. Some reasonable rhino conservation measures were then adopted and there was a gradual increase until the numbers peaked in 2005 in the mid **500s**. Poaching has again resulted in their decline to around **400**. And that is why the Zimbabwe rhino situation came under scrutiny by the IUCN and CITES.

As a Foundation, we have seen our role as a provider of vital field and veterinary equipment to help to protect and manage Zimbabwe's rhino nuclei. To meet the constant demand for more kit, technology, spare parts and so on, we rely on our annual membership fees, donations and fundraisers. Your renewal form, for those other than new members within the last five months, is enclosed with this newsletter and we hope you will be prompt in completing and returning it, please.

As for fundraisers, our two key events are our safaris and our celebrity dinner/auctions. There are just two spots available for September's **fantastic African holiday** and more details can be obtained from our office. We were lucky

enough to have **Mark Nicholas** as our special guest for our big cricket dinner and nearly 400 guests packed into the **Hyatt Regency** to be entertained by Mark's oratory skills and humour. A massive **\$120,000** was raised from the auction, ticket sales and related memorabilia sales. Thanks, Mark, for being the catalyst for all of this to happen.

Patron David Gower will be our celebrity entertainer on **15 December**, the eve of the 3rd Ashes clash at the WACA, so mark this date in your diary, please.

In the past six months we have spent over **\$128,000** on a variety of different items as noted elsewhere.

Veterinarian Cameron Murray and his Grantham Street Clinic held a very successful art exhibition and auction in Central Park for a week in February. As a result, Cameron has very kindly donated the fantastic amount of **\$6,400** to our cause, plus one painting of a rhino to be auctioned at our next big event with the full proceeds going to the Foundation, thanks to local artist **Chris Wiles**.

It is now nearly 10 years since **Dawn Newman** has been lending her word processing and computer skills to the production of our newsletter, and we couldn't possibly have managed without her. Thanks so much for this, Dawn, and long may it continue please.

Congratulations are in order for **Evelyn Wong**, a long time valued committee member, and **Martin Storey**, our website manager, on the birth of their son, **Thomas**, last December.

I should like to thank all our members and followers for their ongoing support throughout the past year, indeed, for the **past 23 years!** Your committee looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on 2 July, where a comprehensive update will be given on all of our involvement in the rhino world.

Nicholas S. Duncan

23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc.)

will be held on

Thursday 8 July at 7 pm

**Education Centre, Perth Zoo,
Labouchere Rd, South Perth**

Nomination forms for positions on the Executive and proxy forms are available from
Kim - 9279 8911

Nominations should be lodged at our office

**229 Oxford Street, Leederville
by 7.00 pm on 3 July 2010**



The rainy season hasn't been as good as hoped and some pans had to be pumped in January (instead of May) to supply ample water for the massive Hwange elephant numbers. However, good rains in Febru-

ZIMBABWE UPDATE

ary and March have made everything look nice and green and lush and there is plenty of food and water for most of the wildlife around Zimbabwe. But there will need to be plenty of pumping through the dry season necessitating pump and engine repairs being done right now.

Rhino poaching is a little down on last year, at least 15 so far, whilst neighbouring South Africa is suffering higher casualties, at least 35 for the first three months of 2010. Alarmingly, in South Africa, poachers have been known to fly in by helicopter, tranquilize the rhinos and then dehorn them, all being undetected. A terrible myth in Vietnam, that rhino horn cures cancer, has led to this massive poaching increase in the last few years.

We are still very pleased with the progress being made by **Stephen Long, of DART**, and his **National Parks rhino monitoring colleagues**. They have been carefully mapping the distribution of rhinos in Sinamatella, though, sadly, four carcasses have recently been found.

In conjunction with the **Zambezi Society** and **Bumi Hills Safari Lodge**, and other local tour operators, we hope that we can beef up the resources, anti poaching and rhino monitoring in Matusadona, on the shores of Lake Kariba. We are in the process of completing the repairs to our two-ton Mitsubishi canter and our 18 year old landcruiser.

In fact, refurbishment of our ageing fleet is high on our priority for the next few months. We recently spent a fair bit of money on rebuilding another old land-cruiser from Chipinge Safari area, our Sinamatella canter and our Victoria Falls canter. Their suspension systems have taken a belting with the rough terrain they cover and all sorts of bits and pieces, especially shock absorbers, springs and other suspension items, are all being replaced.



On top of this, there are two wrecks / carcasses that need completely refurbishing, one for the Zambezi Valley and one that we may use for our own projects / personnel. We are reliably informed

by the Chairman of the Parks Board that some new Toyotas are going into the field pretty soon, plus more uniforms, purchased from the proceeds of the sale of 700 buffalos. We are also purchasing 200 more sets of ex army field uniforms to distribute around the Intensive Protection Zones.

On the weekend of 6/7 March, two functions were held in Perth and Harare to help raise funds for **Friends of Hwange**, a trust that concentrates providing necessities for at least 12 water pans in Hwange. The Harare event was attended by

260 guests, and was by all accounts a most memorable evening, raising over \$30,000. A smaller fund raiser was organised in Perth by **Wayne Monks** and his crew and produced about \$5,000 profit. Amongst other things, it is planned to purchase two solar power pumping systems to use at Kennedy 1 and Kennedy 2 as a long term investment into greener fuel and cheaper water supplies.

Members of the committee visited Zimbabwe in January and are doing so again in early June when suitcase loads of vital equipment will be distributed around the place.

FUNDS SPENT OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS

Lowveld Rhino Trust	41,825
National Parks projects	43,670
Tikki Hywood Trust	5,398
Veterinary drugs and equipment	6,838
SAVE FOUNDATION co-ordinator	18,243
Victoria Fall APU	3,956
Other projects	8,673
TOTAL	\$128,603



ANIMAL ART AWARDS 2010

The competition, run by **Cameron Murray, Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic**, is in its second year and attracted 150 entries. Competition organisers whittled down the entries to a short list of 82, kindly judged by **Leon Pericles, Robert Juniper and Ben Joel**.

The works were then on display in the **Central Park** foyer, St Georges Terrace for the week of 7 to 13 February. A wide array of animal art was very reasonably priced from \$300 upwards and many took the opportunity at the official opening to snap up a bargain! Attendees of the opening night had lots of fun judging the works, nominating their favourites and listening to a short opening address by **Nicholas Duncan**, Founder and President of the **SAVE FOUNDATION**. The overall prize went to **Yvonne Zago** and her piece entitled "Yours is a funeral I would fly to anywhere" (pictured above).

All profits from the awards went to **SAVE FOUNDATION** and **\$6,400** was raised for the valuable work carried out towards rhino conservation in Zimbabwe. A special thank you must go to Cameron and the hard working team at the clinic for all they have done, not to mention the generosity of the sponsors **Bayer, Studio Noah, Eukanuba and Davey Real Estate**. Please consider the Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic if your pet requires any specialised care. You can visit the clinic at 58D Grantham Street, Wembley Ph: 9387 2144 or online at www.petwellness.com.au

JANUARY TRIP



On 17 January, **Kim and Geoff Hoddy, Nicholas, Nia, my dad and I** met up at Johannesburg airport, South Africa. We then departed for Bulawayo after having some difficulties with the excess luggage, which Nicholas was able to sweet talk our way down to a reasonable price. We were met in Bulawayo by our Zimbabwe Coordinator, **Chris**, and some more luggage fees, this time it was Customs duties; unfortunately Nicholas was not able to sweet talk his way out of this one. We jumped in the Delica and headed for Matopos.

In Matopos we met up with **Verity** where we then went out tracking for rhinos. Our guide, **John**, whose skill and knowledge was a big help, found my first rhino no more than one hundred metres into the park! John led us to find two more rhinos that day and I must say it was very pleasing to know that the rhinos are still kicking around at Matopos and the poachers haven't had a huge impact.



In the evening we entertained various local rhino connections, including **Chris and Fran Foggin, John Brebner, Gavin**

Stephens, Ian Chatterton, Verity Bowman, Nikki Lunt, Colum Zhuwau and John Mvula.

We set off for Hwange national park where we stayed in the **Hwange Safari Lodge** for two nights, having dinner with people from various wildlife conservation programs. One in particular was **Brent** who worked with the lion project. Brent was kind enough to take us out and show us what wonderful animals Africa had to offer. We set off early in the morning



to a spot where Brent had tracked down a female and big male lion which were absolutely magnificent. We then progressed to a man-made waterhole in the hope of an elephant or two. After stories my father had told me of the previous trip he had gone on about charging elephants as big as a house, I could not wait! We pulled up to the water hole met

by about forty elephants and I don't think I have ever been so scared in my entire life but at the same time caught in the moment having elephants three or four times the size of the car come that close you start to question "its not going to get in the back of the truck with us is it?"



Our next destination was **Sinamatella** which I must say was not the flashiest place in the world but nevertheless, we got the opportunity to go and look for some black rhinos. We went into the bush with the anti-poaching guys and **Stephen Long**, and found two rhinos about eight hundred metres from the road. We then snuck up on them but due to an unreliable wind, the rhinos picked up our scent and trotted off.



In my short time in Africa I had seen and done things not many people get the opportunity to do. And for that I would like to thank my dad for showing me a trip of a life time, and to commend **SAVE FOUNDATION**, and in particular Nicholas, for the fantastic work they do and the effort they put into ensuring that these wonders are here for the future generations to come.

Josh Harrison

As a general statement, it would be fair to say that this year's CITES meeting was a **clear winner for commercial interests ahead of conservation measures**. A number of important proposals to safeguard the future of tuna, sharks, corals and a number of other important, though lower profile species, were defeated. The Japanese delegation was very effective in gaining the support of a number of small island nations around the world, and they were able to block the clear passage of the proposed legislations.

In 'our world' we had two wins for rhinos and elephants with positive proposals being passed. **Please email for a full electronic report on these.**



MARK NICHOLAS HELPS US RAISE \$120,000

Our tried and tested formula of an inexpensive ticket price (about half the cost of a similar quality event), a first-class venue, three-course meal with great wines and beers, and an international acclaimed celebrity guest speaker, has proven to be a winner for us yet again! Yes, 380 guests attended our gala dinner/auction at the **Hyatt Regency Perth** on 15 December, dined finely, enjoyed the fabulous **Sandalford Margaret River wines** and **Coopers beers**, and were royally entertained by Channel Nine anchorman, **Mark Nicholas**. And what an evening it was! And we made a few bob too.

With another event in the Grand Ballroom until 4pm, our great band of committee and other helpers worked like beavers to set up the display areas with all our auction items, the amazing staff from the Hyatt transformed all the seating arrangements and **Perth Audio Visual** managed to assemble their array of necessities to bring all the proceedings onto their big screens. And it was all completed by 6.20 in time for the first guests to enter the Ballroom and admire our displays of sporting memorabilia, African artefacts and paintings and other items of general interest.

Our celebrity guest, Mark Nicholas, a renowned raconteur, entertained us with some of his sporting experiences, notably his recent interactions with **Tiger Woods** at the Australian Masters and his cricketing work memories of his time with the late **Kerry Packer**. The whole room full of guests lived on every word he spoke and were all thoroughly enlivened throughout his speech.

Knowing that the acceptable norm for a live auction is 6-10 items, we had 50! There were a further 70 silent auction items as well. Wow! So thanks to all the generous buyers who cleaned up the whole lot. There was spirited bidding for a number of items, not least of which was our donated safari—thanks to **The Hide, Makalolo Camp, The Victoria Falls Hotel, Chobe Marina Lodge, Xakanaxa Camp** and **Mack Air**. Two couples, one just back from another of our safaris, eagerly waved their hands until **Syd and Sue Chipchase** secured it.

Also attracting attention was our **300 Plus Club**, featuring photos and original autographs from 41 batsmen, bowlers and wicketkeepers whose test careers included an innings of 300, or 300 wickets or 300 catches/stumpings. The **1948 Invincibles** signed team sheet was also one of the biggies of the night, along with a **signed Don Bradman bat**, mini bats and balls signed by the **5 Wisden cricketers of the century (Bradman, Hobbs, Sobers, Richards and Warne)**, and **signatures of 25 Australian Test captains**.

We were blessed by very generous bidding from a number of our guests, in particular **Ian Strover, Domenic Licastro, Bernard Sweeney, Justin O'Dea, Shawn Stronach, Roderick Hager** and **Kent Swick** - thanks to you all.

So it's a big thank you to **Mark** for kindly donating his services to allow all this to have happened.

We also give our special thanks to our wonderful sponsors for this event, **Sandalford Margaret River wines, Coopers beers, Perth Audio Visual** and **Perth Hyatt Regency**, without whose generous support we wouldn't have raised nearly as much as we did.



All in all the main auction took \$96,000, the silent one raised \$16,000 and the associated fundraising netted \$21,000, giving a final profit of **\$120,000** after

expenses. Just about all the auction items were very kindly donated.



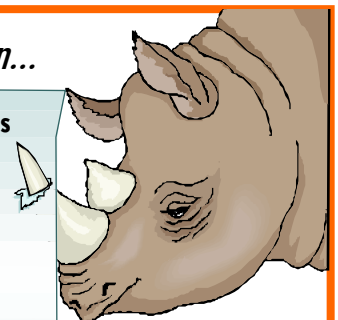
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A RARE Breed is in town...

Just as our precious rhinos are endangered so are experienced Property Managers who look after your investment property as if it were their own.



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