



NEWSLETTER – December 2011

Volume 25 Number 1

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MORE THAN \$500,000 DONATED IN A HORROR YEAR FOR THE RHINOS

This year, 2011, is turning out to be an **absolute shocker for the poor rhinos**—nearly **500 killed** in South Africa and Zimbabwe so far, and rising by one per day! Most are white rhinos in South Africa, 400 plus, with a further 50 black and whites in Zimbabwe, and 35 burnt to death in a massive bush fire in Etosha (Namibia). Massive efforts are being made to reduce these illegal deaths, but the capture/conviction rates are depressingly low, indicating a lack of commitment to slow down these atrocities in certain jurisdictions. Due to some special training, the conviction rate in Zimbabwe has now risen from 5% to 22% and some long prison terms have been handed down.

Congratulations to **Raoul du Toit** of **Lowveld Rhino Trust** for winning this year's prestigious **Goldman Environmental Prize**, presented to him by **President Obama** along with a cheque for **\$150,000**, which Raoul has generously donated back to the project. Great effort Raoul!

As a result of some pretty serious tracking throughout the rhino areas, plus the use of camera traps at strategic points, it has become apparent that **the number of black rhinos in the parks is far lower than expected!** The various relevant NGOs have suggested that these rhinos be **consolidated into one main area** and added protection be given there, rather than spreading the resources around four separate regions, as at present. With the **endorsement of the Director-General of National Parks**, it's hoped this plan will start to be implemented in the middle of next year. Meanwhile, increased, motivated protection must be available in the existing areas.

We've had a record year for donating useful items to the rhino cause, with more than **\$500,000 in the past 12 months**, of which \$315,000 has been spent since the last newsletter in April. Everything we give is as a result of **careful consideration over the request**, as voted by your committee. We stress that we don't give out money, though we do pay

locally generated accounts on behalf of the beneficiaries. Plus, we also pay monthly fees to certain chosen Zimbabweans who do tasks for us. But the main expenditure is on the provision of **capital items such as vehicles, spare parts, tracking devices, fuel and communications.**

Our main sources of revenue for the past year have been our **cricket dinner/auction with David Gower** and **three safaris** from which we benefited. This resulted in just over **\$200,000** of income. Together with some generous donations from private benefactors, memberships, other little revenue producing projects and ongoing sporting memorabilia, we **scooped well over \$470,000** during the past year. Our audited accounts appear on our website every year, for which **we thank Moore Stephens.**

One of our new ventures this year, and the most important thing we've funded, is to provide expert training to selected rangers in the National Parks. **Pete Clemence**, a Zimbabwean legend from his days as a Selous scout, and his son, **Bryce**, have spent the last nine months in **Chipinge, Matobo, Main Camp, Sinamatella and Matusadona**. Here they've conducted a series of basic and intermediate courses and will move to the advanced stage next year. This professional training was really needed and a new spirit of enthusiasm has been engendered in the keen, young rangers. **Thanks, Pete and Bryce, for all your efforts and we wish Pete a speedy recovery to full health after his recent heart attack.**

Vice-President **Mike Palmer's son, Chris**, spent nearly 6 months in Zimbabwe earlier this year, volunteering to help out in any capacity that would help the animals. He spent the first two months working at **Bally Vaughan Animal Sanctuary** under the guidance of **Sarah Carter**. Besides catching and relocating a stray three-foot crocodile, he also built a new lion enclosure to house two captive-bred, distressed lions, being relocated from their ghastly existing surrounds to a far more loving environment. He also spent a week as a trail bike instructor in Matobo and assisted Pete and Bryce Clements with their ranger training programmes. All in all it was a great adventure for Chris and we **really thank him for his contribution to Zimbabwe's**



National Parks Board Chairman, George Pangeti, receiving Landrovers from SAVE FOUNDATION

President's Report cont'd over

wildlife and look forward to his possible return next year.

Cameron Murray from **Grantham Street and Dalkeith Veterinary Clinics** has again arranged an Art Show for the benefit of the rhinos. We know that lots of hard work went into this and our thanks to him and his staff on raising \$2,670 for our great cause.

Your committee join me in **thanking all of you for your past support** and we send our **very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.**

Cheers!

Nicholas S. Duncan

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE COMMITTEE AND FRIENDS

I acknowledge the benefit of knowing Nicholas Duncan and the opportunity given to me in May of this year to experience the excitement of one of his safaris in **Zimbabwe/Botswana.**

Working for ND some 13 years ago in his private business gave me a good insight into the **SAVE FOUNDATION**—the passion that he has with the plight of the black rhino, as some of the time I was actually doing work for SAVE helping with the huge amount of work that is needed to do what is needed. Never in my wildest dreams, at the time, did I think I would ever visit the areas I became familiar with, let alone meet some of the people who have a similar passion. It was purely by chance that one of his ex sales people (**Mary**) and myself decided to travel together this year and contact ND and ask if there were any safaris available—well “yes, two spots available in May”—we jumped at the chance—this would be one of the best travel decisions I have ever made.

Some of my most memorable times were to meet **Andy Searle’s parents**, as I was in ND’s office when the news came through of his death and also **Chris Foggin** whose name I had heard many, many times. Met up again with **Greg Rasmussen** the “Painted Dog” man whom I had met all those years ago when he visited Perth. What a privilege to have travelled with ND and some of his volunteers.

How about the animals I saw—kudu, ele, baboons, giraffe, impala, hippo, crocs (not as big as Australia’s), cheetah, jackal, zebra, wildebeest, hyena, lion and cubs, painted dogs, white rhino and even a **BLACK RHINO WITH a 3 MONTH OLD CALF**—well how good was that.....



All the travel and accommodation was much more than I expected and I thoroughly enjoyed the company of my travel companions, **Nia, Mike, Steve, Chris, Lorraine and Mary and ok, ND.**



I had always wondered about doing this trip due to the problems in Zimbabwe, but not once I felt I was in danger. There was one lesson learned quickly within the first two days though—don’t order the Zimbabwean wine—yak! If you have never done this trip—GO!

I will never forget my African Safari.

Kerry Gale



AGGRESSIVE TRACKING TRAINING END OF YEAR REPORT

BACKGROUND:

Aggressive Tracking Specialists (ATS) were mandated by **Zimbabwe National Parks & Wildlife Authority** to train and select **National Parks rangers** from all five IPZs around the country.

AIM

To select and train potential trackers to develop within them **KEENNESS, AGGRESSIVE DETERMINATION AND MENTAL STAMINA.**

DEFINITION OF AN AGGRESSIVE TRACKER

An **aggressive tracker** is a man who has gone through the **Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels of training.** He is a man who has become experienced by practically tracking, through the different seasons of the year, and has experienced the diverse conditions of a dynamic environment. He is a ranger who is well versed in the essential associated subjects to tracking, subjects such as navigation, shooting, ground to air control, bush craft, close quarter battle drill, camouflage and concealment, special observation and operational planning. A tracking team is made up of **FOUR HIGHLY TRAINED RANGERS**, namely the left flank, right flank,

tracker and the controller. Every ranger in the tracking team is trained to carry out the duties of each position and rotation on the ground is regular when tracking poachers. **A combat tracker is therefore a fully rounded man who is sharp and fully conversant with all the associated subjects of tracking.**

This year, ATS, through the **funding of SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia**, has trained a total of 117 men. This first



This project is **working extremely well** and has already **yielded very positive results**. These are some of the positive effects it is having—

- *More time spent with the rhinos, therefore greater protection from poachers.*
- *A deeper knowledge of the ranging areas and habits of the rhinos.*
- *More time spent actually **PROTECTING** the rhino rather than **LOOKING** for it.*
- *Higher accountability for the rangers.*
- *Narrows down the target protection zone for the rangers, thus allowing them to concentrate more specifically.*
- *Helps to keep the ranger's newly acquired combat tracking skills sharp, and keeps their skills from eroding.*

The new aggressive protection strategy for rhino is a very exciting project for us, as we believe that it works hand in glove with Special Ranger Tracking Training.

With the 55 selected and trained rangers who are eligible for the advanced course and the new aggressive protection strategy for rhino, we believe that we have the right platform to **start a new era and quality of anti-poaching**, that is going to bring new hope to the future of the remaining rhino and indeed the whole of conservation in Zimbabwe.

The National Parks Wildlife Authority of Zimbabwe is showing great support and appreciation for the training and for the vital donor support.

We continue to appeal for your much needed support as we labor together to raise the standard of anti-poaching and bring about a new era of conservation in Zimbabwe.

Many thanks,

Pete and Bryce Clements
Aggressive Tracking Specialists



phase of training was for selection of potential trackers from that 117, and 74 rangers were eligible to go through to the intermediate level of training.

The 74 rangers went through the intermediate level of training, of which 55 will go through to the advanced course. The selection process is complete so it is very unlikely that there will be any failures in the advanced course. The advanced course involves more specialized training rather than selection.

Confidently speaking, these 55 specially trained rangers will form the **new elite unit of AGGRESSIVE COMBAT TRACKERS within Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.**



We, as ATS, are extremely happy with the progress that has been made this year in the training of these elite rangers. These men have been empowered to carry out their job professionally and with confidence.

We firmly believe that this training will have a very positive effect on the future of conservation in Zimbabwe because some of these young men will definitely go on to become the future leaders in the Anti Poaching and Conservation in this country.

PROJECTS

ATS, through the financing and backing of SAVE, introduced a new aggressive protection strategy for the rhino. This strategy involves the use of **telemetry (radio tracking)** where vulnerable rhino are implanted with transmitters and **specially trained and selected combat tracking rangers** are assigned with the task of closely protecting these rhino.

BACK IN THE BUSH WHERE I BELONG

As a recipient of SAVE FOUNDATION's generous assistance this year, I was excited by the prospect of returning to Hwange to work with the DART/SAVE rhino monitoring programme.

Vehicle Repairs

On arrival I soon realised Park rangers in Hwange were totally dependent on DART/SAVE vehicles for rhino monitoring and anti-poaching deployments.

Unfortunately the rough bush tracks and elephant trails we call roads, combined with the impossible terrain took its toll, but so too did the many times we gave in to rangers who casually dismissed our concerns that a 1-ton ute was not designed to carry 32 people plus all their monthly shopping! As a result our ancient 4x4 vehicles took a hammering and my immediate priority was to repair broken springs, re-weld chassis and return them to operational reliability asap.

Undaunted I approached the task with naïve vigour..... after all, how difficult could it be to get a couple of vehicles fixed?? Sadly, time spent away from Zim had dulled some of my more useful native senses



I hadn't lost the ability to detect the faintest hint of buffalo scent carried downwind toward me but I HAD lost the ability to "smell a rat" when dealing with rural mechanics in Africa..... Invariably it was hundreds of dollars and many weeks later when you'd first realise your "mechanic" was as competent with vehicles as he would be performing open-heart surgery. Miraculously we still managed to repair the five DART/SAVE vehicles and a few Parks vehicles too.

SAVE Defenders

This year SAVE imported a **fleet of ex-Singapore Army Defenders that were urgently needed in the field.** Rego delays added stress to our situation but finally **Chris Palmer** and I were able to grab a few pies and cokes and depart on a 1000km adventure from Harare to Hwange in these untested vehicles. It was only when the first tyre exploded that we realised a working jack and some basic tools might have been more useful than the pie and cokes.... Driving without a break and using skills and initiative to make **Bear Grylls** proud, we survived the ordeal and handed the vehicles over to **Pete and Bryce Clemence** in time for them to deploy rangers and foil a determined incursion by armed poachers.



Bryce, Paul, Chris and Pete

Rhino Monitoring and Horn Implant Exercises

The rest of the year was spent in the field monitoring and getting very close sightings of rhino. The year culminated in a rhino capture operation where in addition to lending a hand, I **also gave my little finger!!** It was lost when an immobilized rhino we had roped made a dash forward and cut my finger off between the rope and a tree.... Ouch!!!

Summary

I believe 2011 ends on a more positive note for the Hwange rhino than it started. Despite many contacts with poachers there were no further rhino fatalities. Most of the rhino are now fitted with transmitters making them easier to find and protect. On behalf of DART and rhino conservation teams in Hwange, I'd like to thank the SAVE FOUNDATION for their generous funding and determined intervention in Rhino Conservation this year.

Paul de Montille

Paul is the founder of DART (Dete Animal Rescue Trust) for which we've been a supporter for the past 12 years. An experienced professional guide, five years ago he moved to Australia for family reasons. Missing the bush, he returned to Hwange last March for another taste of the wild.



Paul following his finger mishap!

SAVE ART EXHIBITION

Early September saw the opening of **SAVEart in the University Club at UWA**. This inaugural event was a wonderful opportunity to savour art from the poles of the artistic world as established artists joined some emerging to present us with an eclectic exhibition.

The names of **Robert Juniper** and **Helen Norton** are well known to all art lovers. While at the other end of the artistic time line, past winner of the **Australian Young Artist of the Year award, Den Scheer** also contributed. Between these bookends a big thank you also goes to **Linda Skrollys, Sharon Dawes, Amanda Shelsher, Yvonne Zago, Mary Jane Malet, Tim Garrity and Cassandra Burton**.

What brought all these artists together was a willingness to aid the work of the **SAVE FOUNDATION**. The month long exhibition opened with drinks and nibbles in the University Club gallery space where guests enjoyed works which ranged from African animals, to portraits and cakes. While the sale of art was slow, the evening allowed **Geoff Hoddy** to give a summary of what **SAVE** was about and a print, kindly donated by **Helen Norton**, was sold by auction to start the fundraising. Our thanks to **David Fear of Altus Real Estate** for acting as auctioneer.



In the end the event raised **\$2,670** and helped to spread the word on **SAVE**. With enthusiasm we may well see further **SAVEart** events in the future so keep your wall space free until then!

Cameron Murray

Grantham Street &
Dalkeith Veterinary Clinics

HORNING AROUND FOR GUINNESS!



We are making an attempt to beat the **Guinness Book of Records** for the **most number of horn players together** for one recital. The existing record stands at **264**, set in New York in January 2010. This is to highlight the plight of the rhino's demise due to its prized horn.

One of Perth's youngest horn players, 10-year-old **Millie McAuliffe** and **Rob Gladstones** from **WASO**, pose with **Memphis at Perth Zoo** to promote the occasion. Memphis' two horns weigh at least **4kg, at \$60,000 per kg retail**, showing why nearly 500 rhinos have been butchered this year for this prized commodity in minority sectors of the Vietnamese and Chinese communities.

Our attempt will take place on **Sunday 4 March at the Canning Bridge Rotary Art and Craft Market**, where **Beethoven's Ode to Joy** will be played. Please spread the word around any likely horn players and ask them to contact **Ian Fairnie on 0419 938707**. Thanks, and why not come along and support this world record attempt?

See you there!

24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following committee was elected at the AGM last June:

President	Nicholas Duncan
Vice President	Mike Palmer
Secretary	Kim Hoddy
Treasurer	Nia Carras
Special Projects	Evelyn Wong
General Committee	Geoff Hoddy Steve Harrison Helen Fairnie Candice Lynn

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to **Dawn Newman** for her many years of newsletter typesetting and **Angelo Porcaro (Annalice Framing)** for his many years of framing our sporting memorabilia and artworks.



SEPTEMBER SAFARI HIGHLIGHTS

For most of the group, this was a first trip to Africa and a trip of a lifetime. Barring a few little hiccups, the tour was mostly obstacle free. (Thanks to Nicholas double-checking well ahead of time.) **The accommodation and facilities were exceptional, far exceeding our expectations. The guides were fantastic** and very eager to pass on their local know-ledge. From day one, we all knew we were in for a treat, albeit a few informal auctions along the way.

The places we visited were: **The Hide, Victoria Falls Hotel, Chobe Mowana Lodge and Xakanaxa Camp.**

Our first highlight was **Imire Safari Ranch** where the group was able to get 'up close and personal' to elephants and rhino. Who would have thought we'd be feeding baby rhino and listening to those squeaks and grunts, indicative of their very baby vulnerability?

Next we went to **Hwange National Park (The Hide)** where some were lucky enough to witness a cheetah kill and then others, the gradual devouring of a bush buck, just outside our camp.

Later that day, some of the group were able to watch two rhinos having transmitters fitted to their horns after being darted from a helicopter. This was a very special experience and coincidental in timing.



Prior to leaving Hwange, we visited a local school, provided some goodies and were entertained in return.



We also had the opportunity to visit the **Painted Dog Conservation** facility with a welcome committee of seven dogs outside the front of the facility. Later that night, a meet and greet with several of the other conservation stakeholders proved very interesting.



Victoria Falls lived up to its reputation as one of the Seven Wonders of the World and we were kept busy for three days with all sorts of adventure activities.

We saw lions at **Chobe** and at **Okavango (Xakanaxa)**, a leopard kill (impala up a tree) and a fleeting glance of a camera shy leopard. The lions paid a visit to the airport terminal as we were leaving, taking over the office.....only in Africa!

Each location brought with it a different outlook, from the **dry barren Hwange National Park** and animals vying for position at the few pumped waterholes (supported by SAVE) to the **rich waterways of Chobe** and the **flooded areas of the Okavango Delta**. In each location, the bird life was extravagant, wildlife abundant and; elephants! You can never have enough elephants.

Well done, Nicholas! (and a big thank you to Maree).

*Debbie &
Chris Mitchell*



*Dr Chap Masterton
using the Honda generator to great effect.*



Gala Dinner with Kim Hughes

You are invited to attend a very special fundraising dinner/auction with Kim Hughes. Apart from being a great batsman, playing 70 Tests, 28 as captain, Kim has also volunteered his services to play in two of our international fundraising cricket matches for the rhinos. He's also a sought after keynote speaker and last year was the guest speaker at the annual Bradman Luncheon at the MCG.



Tuesday 13 March 2012 at 6:30 pm

Venue: Hyatt Regency Perth,  Grand Ballroom

Auction: Sporting memorabilia, safaris, paintings plus many more items

Tickets: \$125 each.

Early Bird Specials: \$110 each (members \$100 each).

Tables of 10: only \$995, if booking made soon. Book now, pay later on 31 January.

Bookings: Via booking form below or contact Nicholas on mobile 0417937655.

Email: save@savefoundation.org.au
229 Oxford St, Leederville, WA 6007



YES, please reserve _____ ticket/s for me at ONLY \$125

YES, please reserve _____ ticket/s for me at ONLY \$110 or _____ ticket/s for me at \$100(members only)

YES, please reserve _____ table/s for me at ONLY \$995

Name: _____

Address: _____

My cheque for the above amount is enclosed OR

DIRECT DEPOSIT into BSB 066113 Acc 10044335 (Please include your name as a reference)

OR charge my Bankcard Mastercard Visa (please circle one)

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: ____/____/____ Name on Card: _____

Fax to: (08) 9444 6550

Your signature _____

Beneficiary:



SAVE FOUNDATION

of Australia (Inc.)

ABN 44 390 534



SAFARI 2012—1-18 SEPTEMBER—FILLING UP FAST !!

Here's where we go:

****Hwange national park**, home to 40,000 elephants, and plenty of other wildlife—zebras, giraffes, buffalo and so on. Stay 3 nights at **The Hide**, winner of Lodge of the Year for 13 of the last 17 years. www.hidesafaris.com. Great staff and plenty to see and do.

****Three nights at the colonial splendour of The Victoria Falls Hotel**. Besides the falls you will enjoy an elephant back safari, walking with lion cubs, canoeing on the Zambezi and the Flight of Angels. www.victoriafallshotel.com.

****Chobe Marina Lodge** for two nights—even more eles than Hwange, hippos, crocs, antelope, birds. www.chobemarinalodge.com

****Fly into the Okavango Delta**, the jewel of Africa, and stay three luxurious nights at **Xakanaxa Camp**. www.xakanaxa-camp.com. Here there is a very strong chance of seeing the big cats, plus the water antelope.

****Spend your last three nights relaxing on the shores of Lake Kariba**, in the company of wildlife legend, **Steve Edwards**, at his lovely camp, Musango. Enjoy walks, boat trips, village school visit, drives, canoeing and fishing. www.musangosafaricamp.com

Here's what recent travellers said:

"...thank you for our wonderful African experience—it has made a big impression on both of us. Your passion for the people and animals is an inspiration, if only there were many more like you." Kim and Peter

"We had a wonderful time and have many memories of the places, people and animals. We have over 1200 photos to remind us of our journey and can send you a CD of our favourites if you are not inundated with others from the group. Enjoyed Cape Town but the Safari was the highlight." Alison and Denis

"A big thank you to yourself and Maree for a really enjoyable and highly worthwhile trip. Dad and I both loved it, not only for the wildlife aspect and the valuable contribution that SAVE plays but also for putting such a great bunch of totally different people together." Elizabeth

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL—SAVE \$1,200—BOOK NOW!
0417 937 655

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.



CONTACT **ROBYN SPINLEY** Tel. 9443 9955 Web: www.grpm.com.au, Email: robyn@grpm.com.au



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