

The Rhino Print

Autumn 2013



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CONTENTS



Director's Report.....	3
Big Five Tour, March 2013.....	4
Rhino Poaching: are we losing the battle?.....	5
Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit.....	5
A Day in the Life of an RPU Member.....	6
Conservation Genetics of Sumatran Rhinoceros.....	7
Special Thanks.....	8
Coming Events.....	8
In other rhino news.....	8
Corporate Donors and Pro-Bono Supporters.....	9
Merchandise Order Form.....	10

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Director's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the first ARP newsletter of 2013. I am excited to be undertaking the role of Director whilst Kerry takes a very well earned break to spend some time with her family. They are however big shoes to fill and we have lots of work to do in the coming year.

I am hoping to spend quite a bit of time in Indonesia this year, which will give us greater opportunity to monitor use of our funds but also help to raise the profile of ARP.

I am enormously grateful to have had the opportunity to visit the crew at SRS in Way Kambas in January and to see that little Andatu is no longer so little. His birth was such a fantastic achievement and presents a brighter hope for the future of Sumatran Rhinos.

I will be returning for another visit in March with the Wildlife Asia 'Big 5' tour and excited to have the opportunity to share the SRS with some of our long term and enthusiastic supporters.

Kerry and I will also both be attending the Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit in Singapore in April which will bring together all key stakeholders to discuss the critical situation facing Sumatran Rhino and develop sound strategies to ensure their survival. ARP hopes to be a significant donor for the priority projects identified during this summit.

In rhino news, the poaching of rhino in Africa continues at a frightening rate. As we mentioned late last year, if this same poaching pressure was applied to Javan and Sumatran rhino there would simply be none left already. The increased demand for rhino horn however will inevitably place the Asian rhino populations at risk and we have already seen an increase in India, with several recent incidents in Manas National Park, home to a relocated population of Indian rhinos.

Of greatest concern was the recent interception of a group of Vietnamese poachers in the Gunung Leuser region in Sumatra. It has recently been noted that this park may contain significant numbers of Sumatran rhino and with minimal protection strategies in place at this stage they remain an easy target. The Asian Rhino Project will be providing urgent funding for the establishment of RPU in this area. If you are able to assist us with funding support for this project please let us know. Every dollar counts!

Until next time, please enjoy the following rhino news and we look forward to seeing some of you at events throughout the year.

Clare Campbell
Director



Top: Clare with Andatu and mum Ratu at SRS in January.

Bottom: Clare with IRF Director, Susie Ellis visiting SRS in January.



Big Five Tour, March 2013

ARP Director Clare Campbell will be leading the first ever Wildlife Asia tour in March.

The adventure packed tour will take participants to visit projects in Borneo, Sumatra and Java and they will get to see Orangutan, Elephant, Bears, Silvery gibbon and in what is sure to be a highlight of the trip, visit the Sumatran Rhino sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

Ten people have signed up to the trip including two long term supporters of ARP, our treasurer Lorraine Dunn and Memberships officer Denise Vincent. The trip will be a great opportunity for them to visit one of the projects we support and we hope that we will return with some new passionate and enthusiastic supporters of rhino conservation. Both Denise and Lorraine are sure to have some stories and pictures to share in our next newsletter.

If you would like to assist either of them with their fundraising for the trip, please visit www.wildlifeasia.org.au and go to the travel page for more information.

Lorraine Dunn is Treasurer for the Asian Rhino Project and resides in Serpentine WA. Lorraine has been the Treasurer for over 6 years. Lorraine is a docent at Perth Zoo where she makes the Behavioral Enrichment for the resident Orangutans. Lorraine conducts educational presentations for Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital raising funds to run the hospital that treats over two thousand patients each year.

Lorraine is looking forward to seeing the endangered species that she is passionate about both in the wild and in the rehabilitation centres.

Denise is the Membership Coordinator for the Asian Rhino Project, now in her second year



in that role. Denise resides Wulagi, Darwin, NT and is really looking forward to seeing the projects in the field. Denise has travelled to most continents but not Antarctica. Denise is a Primary School Relief Teacher.

Rhino Poaching: are we losing the battle?

The increase in rhino poaching has certainly been receiving some worthy media attention of late. It is so disheartening to see that even with an increase in conservation awareness and so many NGO's operating both in the field and at the education level that we could be witnessing such an alarming level of trade in rhino horn. It appears that years of progress and effective conservation efforts can be so rapidly undone. Of course it is not just rhinos, the demand for wildlife products continues to rise driven largely by Chinese and Vietnamese markets.

To highlight the economic drive behind such trade, the claimed benefits of products such as rhino horn simply evolve with new generations; whatever sells! The current claim that rhino horn can cure a hangover of course has no scientific basis whatsoever but this ridiculous marketing ploy is enough to drive poachers to desperate measures to source rhino horn from wherever they can.

For those working in Asian rhino conservation we have been very saddened to learn of the poaching of almost 10 Greater one-horned rhino already this year. Several of these occurred in Kaziranga National Park, one of the most highly protected rhino populations in India. One of these rhino was also killed in Manas National Park. This rhino was one of 18 translocated from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas as part of International Rhino Vision 2020, a project for which the Asian Rhino Project has provided support. Considerable work has been undertaken to educate local communities and instill value in wildlife in an attempt to protect these species and

the teams will continue to work hard to prevent further poaching incidents.

Poaching does not come without risks however and we have also recently been advised that a poacher in Orang National Park, India was killed in an exchange with the park's forest patrol team. This is not an isolated incident and poachers face considerable threat of being injured or killed when they are attempting to kill rhinos in protected areas.

Rhino protection Units have been operating in Indonesia for almost a decade and in the last 7 years not one single rhino has been poached. These elusive rhinos present a greater challenge to poachers and they also have considerably smaller horns but with an increased demand we do have to wonder if we are on borrowed time with these populations as well. We were alarmed to hear that a group of Vietnamese poachers were arrested earlier in the year in Gunung Leuser National Park, Sumatra. Their likely target was rhinos. This area has recently been identified as potentially holding a considerable population of Sumatran rhino and an increase in RPU and protection strategies is urgent. ARP will be assisting to fund some of these initiatives and we hope that a poaching incident can be avoided.

With the current CITES convention underway, and the upcoming Sumatran Rhino Crisis summit, the issue of rhino poaching will remain hot on the agenda. The problem must be tackled at many levels and we hope that increased awareness, public support and NGO driven initiatives can help halt the trade.

Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit

The summit, themed 'Last Chance to Act', has been organized to facilitate urgent discussion and regional collaboration for protection of Sumatran rhinos.

With numbers having steadily declined since the early 90s, the situation is now considered critical. Urgent efforts must be co-ordinated or we will see the eventual extinction of this species.

Funded by Sime Darby Foundation, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, WWF, Borneo Rhino Alliance, LEAP and Taman Safari Indonesia, the summit will be held in Singapore from April 1-4.

Asian Rhino Project will be represented by both Kerry Crosbie and Clare Campbell, with Patron Peter Hall also likely to attend.

The delegation will include stakeholders from all regions, including government and NGO's, scientists, field conservationists, breeding specialists and current and potential donors.

We hope to report significant outcomes from the meeting and to identify key areas for ARP's future support for Sumatran rhino projects.



RPU members cross river in route to apprehend illegal logger.



Illegal logging suspect arrested with chainsaw.

A Day in the Life of an RPU Member

By Sectionov Inov, Yayasan Badak Indonesia

Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) are a unique collaboration, which combine government officers and community in securing and patrolling inside National Park areas in a professional and well managed manner. We know that rhinos are a key species and protecting rhinos and their habitat is our main task. That means we also protect tigers, elephants, and other species.

The following is an excerpt from a story direct from the RPU team:

One day, while patrolling in the northern section of Way Kambas National Park, RPU Unit 1 received a report of illegal logging activity. Recently in that area of the park, there has been lots of illegal logging which also disturbs rhino habitat. After arriving at the location, RPU heard a chainsaw but it was still quite far away. They tried to follow the noise. Slowly and carefully, the team walked to the location, crossing a river on the way.

After three hours of walking, RPU arrived at the location. They saw three people cutting trees with chainsaws. Two of the men had heard RPU coming and ran away, but one of them was still cutting a tree and RPU were able to catch him and arrest him. RPU tried to interrogate him, to ask where they came from, and to find out who is in charge of the illegal logging operations. RPU also collected all evidence and took a picture of him, and then wrote our report.

After interrogating and collecting all information from the illegal logger, RPU unit 1 called RPU base camp via walkie talkie and asked to be picked up at the check point. It was going to take them at least four hours to walk to the check point, and it would not be easy, because they had to also bring the logger in handcuffs. So they decided to take a shortcut, but they had to cross two rivers, Way Nibung and Way Pegadungan. The second river was quite deep.

Luckily, they had confiscated one small boat belonging to the suspect and several big plastic bottles that were used as gasoline containers. The team, with the suspect, was seven people, but the boat could only hold three. Head of unit and one member of the RPU accompanied the suspect across the river. Meanwhile the other members decided to swim across the river. Actually they hate to swim across this river because there are too many mosquitos and leeches, but they had to do it.

Each of them used one of the big plastic bottles to help us float and swim across the river. They started across the river at 6:00 PM – almost dark. When they started to cross, they realized the current was much higher and stronger that they had thought. They were swept down the river, and they just had to float along, using the plastic bottles, trying to survive. They were in the river for more than 5 hours before they were able to climb out and then make it to the checkpoint around midnight. It was terrifying.

After arriving at the checkpoint, they used the RPU boat to go to the base camp – another three hour trip – and then drove the suspect to the National Park office, where they handed him over to the police. It is probably the hardest job, It's not an easy job, but I know they proud to be a member of the Rhino Protection Unit.

Conservation Genetics of Sumatran Rhinoceros: non-invasive assessment of population status in Indonesia

Asian Rhino project provided funding support during 2012 for the non invasive genetic assessment of rhino populations in Indonesia.

A progress report recently highlighted the following outcomes:

- A panel of 18 microsatellite loci for Sumatran Rhino were selected for further genetic population monitoring work using faecal DNA samples.
- For Sumatran rhinos, a total of two individuals from four samples were identified from Way Kambas National Park (WKNP), and three individuals from three samples identified from Bukit Berasan Seletan National Park (BBSNP). Both the individuals from WKNP are females, while one male and two females were identified in the three individuals from BBSNP.
- Using reference samples from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, it was also shown that these loci can successfully be used for kinship analysis of Sumatran rhinos.

An estimate of effective population size, heterozygosity and levels of inbreeding in Sumatran rhinoceros in WKNP and BBSNP, information that is vital for population management of the species, will be carried out once analysing is complete for the entire field collected faecal samples.

The conservation impact of this project is yet to



Scientists and researchers from Aaranyak, YABI and Eijkman Institute meeting to discuss Sumatran rhino genetic analysis in Eijkman Institute, Jakarta.

be fully achieved. Once the collection of data is complete and results are analysed, a true picture of the population size and sex ratio of Sumatran rhinos in Way Kambas National Park and Bukit Berasan Seletan National Park will be apparent.

Once this data is available, appropriate management interventions can be made as to how best the populations need to be managed.

These decisions can only be developed once there is a good understanding of the number of rhinos present and the percentage of the population that is actually contributing to breeding.

We look forward to further updates as this important work continues and ARP hopes to be able to provide additional fundraising support.



Dung sample of Sumatran rhino in Way Kambas National Park (Photo: Udayan Borthakur); Rhino faecal sample (Photo Courtesy: Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology); DNA extraction process (Photo Courtesy: Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology).

Special Thanks

A few special mentions this quarter...

Thank you to Lorraine Dunn and Denise Vincent who have both recently become life members of ARP.

Well done and thanks so much to the crew at National Zoo in Canberra who continue to support ARP and have recently sold several adoptions and merchandise.

To our members and friends who have made donations recently. Your funds will go towards our important projects in the field and the rhinos thank you for your generosity.

Our new brochure will be available soon. Thanks to Enviroprint for their support of ARP.

A special thanks to Shae Holden who has stepped down from the ARP admin position due to other commitments. We would like to thank Shae for her efforts during 2012 and we are very happy that she will remain on committee as Secretary.

In other rhino news...

Urgent discussions are currently taking place at the CITES conference in Bangkok in relation to the alarming increase in rhino horn trade in recent years. Several media reports have highlighted commitment from various governments to support the protection of rhinos. These include proposing a complete ban on the sale of rhino horn and from the other side a suggestion to legalise the sale . More information can be found in the links below

<http://news.msn.com/science-technology/legalize-rhino-horn-trade-to-try-to-save-species-scientists-say>

In India, flooding was once considered to be a primary cause of death in rhinos. It is again frightening to note that poaching is now considered the greatest killer of Greater one-horned rhinos

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Poaching-overtakes-floods-as-major-killer-of-rhinos/articleshow/18326455.cms>

In a particularly frightening report, we have also recently learned that Australia may in fact be contributing to the trade in rhino horn.

www.canberratimes.com.au/environment/conservation/australia-a-stop-on-road-to-extinction-20130302-2fd11.html

Our deepest sympathies go to staff at Cincinatti Zoo after the recent loss of Ipuh, the Sumatran Rhino. Ipuh sired the three calves born at Cincinatti and has made a valuable contribution to the captive population. He was the grandfather of Andatu, the young male recently born in Sumatra. Ipuh was estimated to be at least 33 years old and although longevity is unknown it is thought that he was the longest lived Sumatran rhino in captivity.

www.fox19.com/story/21233667/cincinnati-zoo-mourns-death-of-endangered-sumatran-rhino-ipuh

Coming Events

ARP will be holding a stall at the Willetton Rotary Fair on Easter Sunday (31 March) from 10am. Why not come on down and support your local community projects for a fun day out. The Fair will be held at Burrendah Park (corner of Pinetree Gully and Burrendah Boulevard, Willetton).

Be part of this great community event that not only brings Willetton's families and businesses together, but also raises funds for worthy causes here and around the world.

Adopt-a-Rhino

Help us save the critically endangered Sumatran rhino by adopting one today.

All funds raised are used to support the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia.

Adoptions cost \$75 for a basic package or \$95 for the deluxe package. Find out more at www.asianrhinos.org.au.

Corporate Donors

ARP would like to recognise the following corporate donors working to help us help the rhinos. Funds or funds raised from donated items all go towards our valuable conservation projects. Thank you.



Pro-Bono Supporters

ARP would like to recognise the dedication and expert assistance of the following organisations for their professional pro-bono support. These organisations provide services free of charge assisting us to minimise our administration costs enabling ARP to focus funding on our important conservation projects.

MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES



Join Up or Renew Today

Please send completed membership forms to: Memberships, PO Box 163, South Perth WA 6951.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Email: _____

I would like to support Asian Rhino Project by becoming a member for: (please tick)

- 1 year = AU\$30
- 3 years = AU\$80
- 5 years = AU\$130
- Life = AU\$400

Please ensure your e-mail address is included above OR provide an alternative e-mail address we can send your newsletter to on your behalf. Please use this alternative e-mail for my newsletters and notices _____

Asian Rhino Project often receives information about fundraising events from other local conservation groups. Would you like to receive this information as well (via email only)? Yes No
NB: Your personal details will not be made available to these groups.

Donations are warmly welcomed and should be made to the Asian Rhino Conservation Fund.

I would like to include a donation of \$_____ to assist the Asian Rhino Project in its cause.

Please accept my payment by: Cheque Cash Credit Card Electronic Transfer

For electronic transfers our details are:

Name: Asian Rhino Project Inc. Bank: ANZ Branch: East Victoria Park, Western Australia.
BSB: 016 263 Account: 4984 19705 Transfer receipt number: _____

Please charge my: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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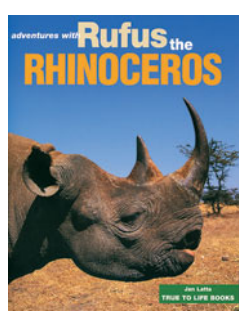
Rhino Rembrandts – \$475
The artists are Indian and Sumatran rhinos from Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA. Painting is a special activity that has become one of many ways to enrich the rhinos' day. Not only do the paintings enrich the zoo rhinos' lives, they also help their wild cousins with proceeds of painting sales going to Asian rhino conservation.



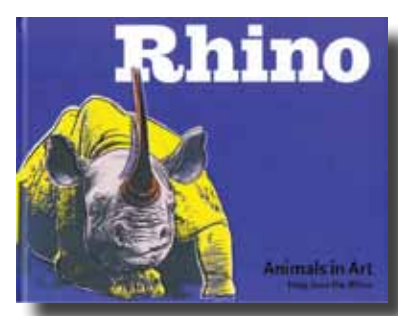
Rhino Earrings – \$20



Pens – \$4



Rufus the Rhinoceros Book – \$10



Rhino – Animals in Art – \$22
Book by Joanna Skipwith and Silver Jungle



Stickers – \$2



ARP T-shirts – \$19



Rhino Hand Puppet – \$15



Thermal Mug – \$15



Drink Bottles – \$13



Rhino Soft Toys – \$20ea



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Website: www.asianrhinos.org.au

Merchandise Order Form

Item	Cost	Colour (please circle)	Quantity	Total
Rhino Rembrandt	\$475	N/A		
Rhino – Animals in Art	\$22	N/A		
ARP T-shirts	\$19	black white Women's sizes: 10-14 Men's sizes: S-XL		
Rhino Hand Puppet	\$15			
Rhino Soft Toy	\$20	sitting up or standing		
Coloured Earrings	\$8	yellow (long) red yellow (short) blue black/orange		
Rhino Earrings	\$20	gold silver		
Pen	\$4	red blue black		
Sticker	Free	N/A		
Magnet	50c	N/A		
Wine Cooler	\$9.50	terracotta		
Thermal Mug (350ml)	\$5.50	purple pink green blue black		
Thermal Mug (750ml)	\$8	green black khaki		
Drink Bottle	\$3.50	black silver		
			SUB-TOTAL	
			Add \$7 for postage. If order over \$75, postage is free.	
			GRAND TOTAL	

Details and Payment

Please send completed order forms to: Asian Rhino Project, PO Box 163, South Perth, Western Australia, Australia 6951.

Name: _____

Delivery Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Email: _____

Please accept my payment by: Cheque Cash Credit Card Electronic Transfer

For electronic transfers our details are: Name: Asian Rhino Project Inc. Bank: ANZ Branch: East Victoria Park, Western Australia. BSB: 016 263 Account: 4984 19705 Transfer receipt number: _____

Please charge my: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____