

**Patrons:** David Gower OBE, Bryce Courtenay (deceased 2012), Nick Price, David Pocock, Kim Hughes.

## President's Report

There's no other way of saying it other than how it is! I've been lazy with writing this Newsletter, sorry, but now I've started so here we go!

As we approach the end of our twenty eighth year in helping rhino conservation in southern Africa, especially in Zimbabwe, we are deeply saddened to report that **2014 has been the worst year in over twenty years for rhino poaching mortalities**. At least 1,215 were killed in South Africa (more than 700 in Kruger), 40+ in Kenya, 30+ in Namibia and 11 in Zimbabwe. This overall death rate is now approaching the birth rate and if these trends continue then there will be an overall population decline starting fairly soon.

In this Newsletter there are some sickening photos of five rhinos killed in late February, three from shooting and two from cyanide poisoning at a waterhole.

It should also be noted that more than **100,000 elephants** have been slaughtered around Africa in the last three years, to fuel the insatiable demand for carved ivory, especially in China where the emerging middle class have disposable income.

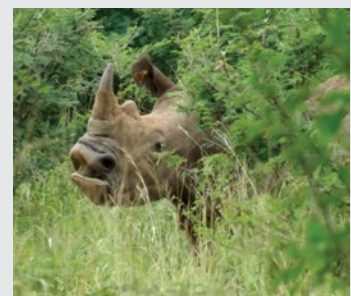
We are very keen to continue with our fight and will probably be slightly tweaking some of our strategies and support. This could include some more support for the demand reduction campaign being conducted in **Vietnam** by **Lynn Johnson**, one of our members. We also think that to make more effort in **Mozambique**, the source of at least 80% of rhino poachers in the region, makes good sense.

For the past three years we have been contributing around the **\$500,000** mark each year for rhino support, and this goes a long way. This year, for the first time, we have cracked the **\$600,000** mark! This now brings us close

to **6 million dollars** since we started in 1987. Typical expenditure is on the provision and maintenance of **4wd vehicles (we have a total of 22 in various states of usefulness), radios, tracking and monitoring equipment, field uniforms and key personnel wages**.



Our income to provide these goods comes in three forms – memberships and donations, our annual dinner/auction and safari profits from trips. There are **about 80 new members** who will be reading their first SAVE News so it's a big welcome to you all and thanks for your support and long may it continue, please. This brings our total membership figure to **318**, the highest it's ever been, so thank you. And it probably wouldn't be too difficult if each one of you **enrolled a new member**, please, in the next month? There's an application form on our website. The rhinos deserve everyone's support in these ghastly times as an iconic species fights to stay on earth after more than 40 million years of gracing it.



Continued over page

In a move away from our traditional pre Test match dinner (probably because Perth didn't host one this season!) we changed the format to a panel discussion with **four AFL stars – Dean Cox, Luke McPharlin, Matt Priddis and Tendai Mzungu – all under the brilliant moderating of Tim Gossage**. And what a resounding success it was and how generous with their time with all our guests were our celebrity stars. Thank you all so much, fellows. We will probably repeat this format later in the year with some more household names. On top of all this it was a roaring financial success, raising just over **\$160,000** from one source or another! And much of this was due to the outstanding skills of our celebrity auctioneer, **Tiny Hollow**, who was fantastic.



We were very sorry to hear of the sad passing of three of our members, **Joy Blyth, John Markham and Chris Wiles**. Joy first came on our 2004 safari and then three more in later years, as well as climbing Mt Kilimanjaro (when ill) to raise funds for us. John originally joined SAVE back in 1991 after being one of the participants of the David Gower special safari to Botswana, Zambia and Namibia, a fantastic trip. He continued to support us, particularly at our auctions. Chris also went on a safari, 2010, and since then has been a generous donor of his own paintings, on a regular basis. We will miss them all and to their **families we extend our deepest sympathies and pass on our thanks for their contribution to rhino conservation**.

We also extend our condolences to our treasurer, **Nia Carras**, on the sad loss of her beloved mother, **Daphne**.

As we go to print we are learning of the **tragic and brutal murder of one of our members, Greg Gibbard**. For the past five years, Greg had been working at the **Painted Dog Conservation Centre** on the edge of Hwange NP and was killed in his house – see our tribute later on.

Our annual safari was conducted last September – **Hwange, Kariba, Victoria Falls, Chobe and Okavango Delta** – and, as usual, sold out in a few short days. These are always great trips and this year's one, including Namibia, also sold out in no time at all. So please let me know if you'd like **early-bird details** for 2016.



**Lynn Johnson** continues to do her sterling work with demand reduction campaigns in Vietnam. We really commend you for taking this project on, and using your professional expertise to drive it to its ultimate goal. Lynn is currently fundraising in USA and we hope she is being successful. Her target is \$4 million for a combination of horn infusion in South Africa and advertising campaigns in Vietnam. All assistance would be greatly appreciated by Lynn. Thanks.



During the year we launched our **Rhino Ranger Support Scheme (RRSS)**, whereby a tax deductible donation of **\$4,000** enabled a **new ranger to be selected, trained, kitted out, and have medical aid and food rations for a year**. And as a bonus to our donor we'd host them in a rhino conservancy for six days, with a whole variety of interesting activities, including going on patrol with a ranger, sleeping out, tracking and bushcraft, **ALL** for a mere \$1,000 extra!



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Needless to say this has proven to be a great hit with our followers, and sixteen have enlisted for this year or next, resulting, so far, in USD37,000 towards our project target of USD50,000. Thanks very much, everyone, and we are still open to more offers of assistance with RRSS.

Last July, 70 members and guests attended our **AGM** at Perth Zoo. Besides the usual formal part of the meeting, Ann Jones and Steve Harrison presented on their recent trip to Zimbabwe rhino projects, a most informative talk. The following committee was elected; **President – Nicholas Duncan; Vice President – Mike Palmer; Secretary – Rick Hurlbatt; Treasurer – Nia Carras; General committee – Cameron Murray; Evan Litis; Kelly Scott; Nina Hobson and Steve Harrison.**

I'd like to very much thank all the committee, plus the sub committee of **Candice, Evelyn, Heather, Helen, Lynn, Mark, Patrick and Tim, for all their ongoing support, effort and commitment throughout the year – fantastic stuff, everyone!** Kelly has now resigned and thanks for all your help with the Newsletters, and she has been replaced by Heather, whose main responsibility will be memberships. This year's **AGM will be held at Perth Zoo on Thursday 2 July** – please see our official notice of this meeting on the back page of this Newsletter.

Thanks, **Evan**, for your great work on our Facebook page. Last year we were at 950 likes and now we are up to 2,130 – tremendous effort. Our website is under reconstruction by volunteer **Nick Fielden**, who will be taking over from **Patrick**, who is moving to Zimbabwe quite soon. Thanks fellows for your inputs into this project.

We were delighted to be offered some free display space in the foyer of **100 St George's Terrace** building, courtesy of Tenant Services Manager, **Jenny Garlick**, one of our members. **Cameron Murray from Grantham Street Veterinary and Dalkeith Veterinary Clinics**, grasped this opportunity for his annual **Art Show**, which lasted for four weeks. It was great exposure for the rhino cause and thanks to all concerned.



Two of our amazing long term stalwarts in Sydney, **Dee Williamson** and **Shaun Smith**, are both struggling with some health issues and we all wish them well for speedy recoveries back to full strength in as quick a time as possible. You're in our thoughts and prayers.

**Mike Palmer** continues to make his personal contributions to selected rhino projects in **South Africa** – thanks very much Mike.

Last August, on the eve of the **Tri Series ODI** in Harare, the **Zimbabwe, South Africa** and **Australia** squads were the guests of **ZCU** at Rainbow Towers, an event coordinated by **Kenyon Ziehl**. **Michael Clarke** kindly donated a signed team shirt for the auction, and this and six other sporting items raised a total of **\$20,000** for the Lowveld rhinos. Special thanks to **John and Charles Gardiner** for their massive support of the auction.



For the past five weeks, our **paramedic Tim Scarrott**, has very kindly donated his expertise and expenses to visit ten different areas of Zimbabwe, from **Victoria Falls** to **Hwange** to **Matobo** to **Gonarezhou** to **Save Valley** to **Chipinge** to **Kyle** and then to **Chivero!** This is a total distance of close to **3,000km** and in this time, more than **230 rangers** were trained and certified in basic life saving skills. What a great effort, Tim, and thanks so much from everyone involved – and this is the second year in succession that this has happened! Wow an amazing humanitarian contribution!



*Nicholas Duncan*

# Zimbabwe update



For the first time in many years, at least 20, the total number of rhinos in Zimbabwe has broken through the **800 mark**, 88% of them being on private land and 12% in the National Parks. So it's pretty clear where we should be concentrating our efforts. Accordingly, in the past year we have spent **\$304,000** in the private sector and **\$160,000** in the public parks.



We continue to offer some level of support in 11 of the 14 rhino areas in Zimbabwe. We have chosen to make **Save Valley Conservancy** our biggest project, mainly because the ranchers there are struggling with their land ownership issues and have been denied their hunting quotas for the past three years, thus greatly affecting their income and viability to continue with their necessary anti poaching units.

Our other main expenditure in Zimbabwe has been for camera trap surveys and dehorning in **Matobo**, dehorning in **Kyle**, **Chivero** and **Chipinge**, logistical



back up support in **Sinamatella** and **Matusadona**, field uniforms for **Gonarezhou** and game water supply for the thirsty wildlife of **Hwange**.



## RIP



# Gruesome murder of a Perth conservationist



## RIP Greg Gibbard

We are all devastated and deeply saddened to hear of the brutal murder of Greg on 7 April. He was a long standing member of Save African Rhino Foundation, and a founding member, along with **John Lemon** of **Painted Dog Conservation (Inc)**, back in 2003. He was also their **first Chairman**. Having retired from his academic career in the late 2000s, he moved to PDC on the edge of **Hwange NP** in 2010, to lead their administration team. He was a committed conservationist, a great worker for the dogs and a very kind human being. We regularly met with him on our frequent visits to the PDC Centre.

He was fiercely attacked in his house and died from his injuries. He will be sorely missed by all who knew or worked with him and he passes on with our grateful thanks for all he's done for his beloved dogs.

On 15 April, about 200 of his friends and colleagues, mostly from his work area, gathered in the Bulawayo Cathedral, for a chance to remember and acknowledge his contribution to the painted dog. Many eulogies were delivered, including the local Chief and Peter Blinston.

Police have arrested a local man, well known to Greg, John and myself, in connection with this crime.

Rest in peace Greg.

A tribute from Peter Blinston,  
Managing Director, Painted Dog  
Conservation, Hwange.

### **“Gregory Leonard Gibbard:**

*The Painted Dog Conservation (PDC) family grieves over the cold-blooded murder of our dearly beloved friend and colleague Gregory Leonard Gibbard. This was really a callous act on an innocent man who loved PDC, Hwange and Zimbabwe.*

*A suspect, and former employee of PDC, Xmas Mpofu, has been arrested and charged for the murder. The police are still investigating the motive behind this wanton act.*

*“Gibby” as we affectionately called him, loved Zimbabwe and the tranquil environment of Zimbabwe in general but Hwange in particular. PDC is devastated by the loss a man who voluntarily carried out his work, despite many challenges, with unsurpassed loyalty and integrity. He was someone who always gave his best and never one to complain. He was always willing to take on and learn new things to help us move forward or cope with a particular situation. He never let us down. Those of us privileged to live and work closely with him for so many years knew that beneath that thin “rough” exterior was a man who possessed a remarkable warmth and generous spirit.*

*He found his place here with us in Zimbabwe and became a pivotal member of our team, our family. He is impossible to replace and we miss him so much.*

*With deep sorrow and revulsion we mourn our beloved friend and pass our sincere condolences to his family in Australia and his friends around the world.*

*We would like to thank the police for the sterling job they are doing in making sure the culprit is brought to justice.*

*We also would like to convey our condolences to the Australian Embassy and also thank them for the assistance they are giving us in this very sad and difficult time.*

*May Gibby rest in eternal peace and his spirit continue inspiring us to look after the painted dogs.”*



## SAVE Dinner – AFL style

The old adage, a change is as good as a holiday (except if you have experienced one of Nicholas' African safaris), could have been the motto for the annual SAVE dinner. After cricket authorities saw fit to strip Perth of a Test Match a change in dinner focus was decided upon.

So AFL football it was and what a line up Nicholas organised. Four of the biggest names in WA football with a Brownlow medallist to boot. **Matt Priddis** and **Dean Cox** from the **West Coast Eagles** as well as **Luke McPharlin** and **Tendai Mzungu** from the **Dockers**, all household names, joined us for the evening and we are extremely grateful for their willingness to participate. They were very kindly sponsored and hosted by **Travel Directors**.

As always the evening started with reception drinks before moving to the main ball room. Once again the **Hyatt** excelled with the meal and over entrée the night set off with a bigger and better audio visual presentation from **Nicholas**. This gave a summary of the year that was on the activities of SARF and the problems facing rhino conservation in southern Africa. The positive taken from it was that through the efforts of SARF, amongst others, the poaching epidemic of South Africa for the time being is

being held at bay in Zimbabwe. Complacency will see this change though!

As part of the audio visual presentation guests watched a harrowing recreation of the events surrounding the death of **Maria – a rhino mother in Save Conservancy** with the resultant orphaning of her calf. This brought home the plight that rhinos face if action is not maintained to curb poaching. There was also a stirring video clip of the **Chipembere – Save the Rhino Song by Charles Summerfield**, a Zimbabwean born artist who performed at a rhino fundraiser attended by the Australian cricket team during their 2014 tour of Zimbabwe. Both these can be found on You Tube for those wishing to relive their message.

With official duties done it was on to the fun and games as **Tiny Holly** took the reins as auctioneer. An oath was taken by all in attendance to ensure their hands were plunged deep in to their pockets and away we went. Items auctioned ranged from cricket, football and other sporting memorabilia to luxury weekends in the south west and jewellery. A silent auction rolled along in parallel around the sides of the room and the fine food and drink kept flowing.

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The real focus of the evening though was the panel discussion chaired by a good friend of SARF, **Tim Gossage**. With his entertaining style he lead our football guests through a range of subjects which was both enlightening and entertaining. Certainly stories of Ross Lyons "ball of death" team meetings highlight that the life of an AFL footballer is not all glamour and glitz. Each player brought their own personality to their story telling and the guests I'm sure left with a sense of knowing more of them as individuals rather than just a number in the Footy Record.

A highlight of the evening for all long term SARF supporters was the sight of all our guests wearing the SARF T-shirt (and Tim even received one after having been neglected in this respect in previous years!) and we hope that maybe they will remember the cause in the years to come also.

As usual it was a hardy band who saw the end of the auction and the conclusion of another wonderful event to support the rhino. For those who enjoyed it we have included a recipe from the evening below! We look forward to seeing you at the next SAVE Dinner.

## A SAVE Dinner

### Ingredients:

- 1 dedicated President with 27 years of commitment
- 1 supporting committee and host of SARF volunteers
- 1 generous venue – Hyatt
- 4 football heros living by the mantra of making a living by what we take and a life by what we give
- 1 entertaining and big hearted interviewer – thanks Tim
- 1 enthusiastic auctioneer

### Method:

Mix ingredients together with a host of generous sponsors (highlighted on the night but our sincere thanks again as without your help these events are not possible) until all bellies are filled, all thirst quenched and sufficient funds raised to support the great cause that is Save African Rhino Foundation.

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Now for the results. Thanks to Tiny Holly for an absolutely outstanding job of auctioneer – fast, witty and spirited and we’ve received tremendous feedback on his brilliant role for the night. All of the items in the main auction, travel, life experiences, sporting memorabilia, jewellery, paintings and carvings, were fully donated and the ticket income covered the cost of framing and other overheads on the night. So all the income we received was total profit, as follows;

<b>Main auction -</b>	<b>\$104,850</b>
<b>Silent auction -</b>	<b>\$14,235</b>
<b>Art sales -</b>	<b>\$2,920</b>
<b>Rhino Ranger Support Scheme pledges -</b>	<b>\$38,400</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL --</b>	<b>\$160,445</b>

This is a record amount for one of our dinner/auctions so thanks to all the celebrities, guests, donors, helpers and purchasers who helped make this possible. Particular thanks goes to the following generous bidders; **Craig, Domenic, Graeme, Greg, Helen, James, Jo, Mal, Michelle, Mike, Neil, Russell, Stephanie, Tendai** and **Walter**.

We’d like to thank all our **generous major sponsors** for the evening who provided a number of goods and services to help us do so well – **Travel Directors, Primewest, Injidup Spa, Steakout Restaurant, Parks Tavern, Bunbury, Houghton Wines, Doris Brinkhaus Jewellery, Gage Roads, Acacia Adventure Holidays, Singita Pamushana, Sango Ranch, Amalinda Camp, Ivory Lodge, Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, The Hide, The Victoria Falls Hotel, Ngoma Safari Lodge, Xakanaxa Camp, ScruffyDog Designs, Picasso Print and Design, Annalice Framing, Chris Mitchell, Corporate Theatre, Meridian Services** and **Larry Norton**. Please support these companies in any way you can – thanks.

And thanks also to all our band of helpers on the night – **Evelyn, Heather, Mike, Cameron, Steve, Helen, Evan, Rick, Maree, Julie, Alice, Ben, Lynn, Ruku, Robyn, Candice, Wayne, Fadzai, Kate** and **Jordan** – we couldn’t have managed without you all, a great team effort.

**Cameron Murray, committee member**

## SARF at Pets at the Park

We were invited to have a marquee and promote Save African Rhino Foundation activities at **Pets at the Park** held at College Park Nedlands on Sunday morning 29 March. There were six of us there plus two dogs and two rats.

We borrowed a marquee from the Rotary Club of Canning Bridge, which was really easy to set up. We displayed a few photos plus some new banners showing our SARF activities. These were mainly Western Suburbs people including some from Zimbabwe, South Africa and Zambia, some of whom expressed interest in joining SARF.

Other highlights were **Rick Hurlbatt** and **Sarah Trivett** taking off prizes with their best dressed dog, an aging Chihuahua “Stewart”, dressed in a little windcheater - he came second. **Evan Litis**, another committee member, was there with his Vizsla Missie and she was a great hit. The rats belonging to committee member Cameron Murray’s children, **Sophie** and **Olivia**, came second. The finale was Rick and Sarah winning the big raffle that had all sorts of doggy goodies including fancy collars, dog bowls, and one year of wellness products for their dog at **Swanbourne Veterinary Hospital**. They may have to drive a long way to collect on this. **Heather Atwell, Candice Lynn** and **Cameron Murray** were there to talk to the crowds. There was a lot of interest and we sold 4 memberships, 7 T shirts of varying colours and had people interested in coming along to the presentation by Damian Mander.

The event gave us the opportunity to see what else we might be doing to promote our cause and membership and to tell people what SARF is doing about the desperate plight of the rhinos in Africa. It was suggested that we should display at One Million Paws. Unfortunately applications closed the previous Friday.

We all thought it was a worthwhile event and should be there next year.

**Helen Jones-Fairnie, sub committee**





# March - April 2015. First aid training

As I start to write this on Sunday 22 March at Malemi Dam, in **Matopos National Park**, I wonder at my good fortune to be able to spend some time in this beautiful country for the second year in a row – it is truly splendid in so many ways.

As last year, friendly, grateful, lovely people - beautiful animals, scenery and adventure – lack of unnecessary, bureaucratic interference and a feeling of helping, a little bit, those who work so hard to protect so many gracious, proud, magnificent creatures that the world has to care about or risk losing for ever.

Starting in **Vic Falls** this year, '**Doris the Dependable, Delectable Delica**' awaited. All 3 bags arrived neatly, via Joburg, **Clever(VFAPU)** kindly met me at the airport and **Charles Brightman** had arranged for me to stay at the beautiful **Victoria Falls Safari Lodge**, a real treat. We had 2 classes there in the Conference Room, for the N/Parks and Anti-Poaching Unit- interrupted only, with smiles, by the resident wart hogs and vervet monkeys, as we practiced CPR and Recovery Position on the soft lawn outside – Elephants came down to the lake in the late pm and a walk across the bridge into Zambia required only a stamp on a piece of paper! "Thanks" very much to **Jonathan, Rumbi** and all the friendly, welcoming, helpful staff at the Lodge.

Onward to **Sinatatella** and **Stephen** and **Nick**, who, with all their N/Parks staff made my stay there most comfortable - an incursion by some fish poachers alerted the lads, but we had one class for 14 and then I moved down to **Main Camp** – slowly DtDDD negotiated the tired road



through Musuma Dam, Shumba, past Shapi – a class built to 27 and again I was well cared for in the cottages and Waterbuck Tavern – "thanks" to **Mr Jura** and his kind staff.

Contact with "**The Hide**" resulted in 2 days of courses for their staff (21 in all) and **Ian** and **Leanne, Daffy** and **Nicholas**, (two excellent guides) were very kind and my





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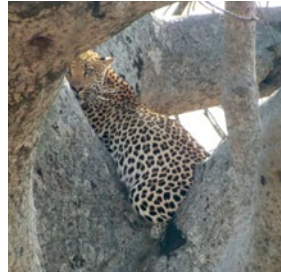
bath looked out over the elephants walking to water –as magnificent as ever, beautiful Lodge. I hope some more rain arrives for you.

Back through Main Camp to visit the Nursing Sister, **Sibulewe**, who I missed previously, the reaction was most enthusiastic!! And we managed to squeeze in a class of 25, as I rescheduled the next step to **Bulawayo**!

Good drive to **Dambari** next day, stopping to share my lunch with a young Japanese lad, cycling from Norway to the Cape! Great to see **Verity, Nicki, Adele** and **Hlungwe** again and “thanks” to them for their kind hospitality – small refresher class in their office and then out to Matopos N/Pk the next day –splendid lunch and mints on the table, supplied by Parks and a great group of ladies, cooking outside – x2 classes over two days and ‘deployment’ reduced numbers, but several of the lads and lasses came both days - you don’t get that sort of enthusiasm in Aus!?



Contact was made with **Ruth** and **Mike Ball** at **Malilangwe** on the way out to **Shannon** and **Sonia** at **Sanuko, (Save Valley Conservancy)** where we had several classes on the rocks in the cool shade, with bit of practice on their soft lawn. Recently returned from the US of A, it was great to meet them and extend my link with the determined, hardworking **Clemence Family** – their lovely hospitality continued at **Chishakwe**, with a couple of false alarms keeping all ‘on their toes’ – training held at base and ‘**Sango**’ over 3 days, with some good ‘tracking walks’ in between. **Bryce, Lara, Falon, Simon, Gona, Pete** and **Manners** as always made me very welcome and despite many challenges remain focused and determined.

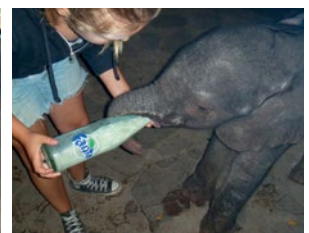


As Easter approached, I made a trip to **Lake Kyle** and got in a course before many escaped for the Celebration! Thanks to **Mr Chamu** and **Chipo** – their “**Friends of Kyle**” and “**Aware**” **Run, Walk, Ride** is on again (24 May) and they want Nicholas to compete!! Get training!



It’s now Friday 10 April- I’m leaving from Harare on Monday.

Returned to Save Valley for Easter and had some more solid walks with Bryce and then late on Sunday night the call came for a lonely baby elephant in the NE area of Save –Lara, in Cape Town, organized logistics by phone and **Dave Goosen** very quickly provided a crate that we loaded up - we met, at midnight, **Theresa Warth** and **Katherine**, who had come all the way from **Chiredzi**, at the main gate and, in convoy, in pouring rain, on some pretty challenging terrain, got to ‘the wee gal’ at about 0230 hrs -she had been brought to shelter by **Lacson** and his lads working there – very, very distressed, approx. 2 weeks old, with nasty infection around her umbilicus, dehydrated and looking like a challenge --- no electricity, Theresa had milk substitute and dextrose and a busy night followed – daylight came and she had slept for 1hr, and things looked positive.



I’m now in Harare, having completed a day at **Lake Chivero**, yesterday, where **Daniel Sithole** is doing a marvelous job as Area Manager – **Tracy** and **Chris** from **AWARE Trust** came with me and we saw a very



rejuvenated Lodge, with beautiful gardens in evidence – zebra, giraffe seen, but not much time to track down any rhino that day. Thanks to **Pete Musto**, who has kindly lent me a room here- always good to catch up with him and he's busy with a visit from **Andy Loveridge (Oxford University)** to plan ops in **Mana Pools** and the **Zambezi Valley** for this year (leopard project).

Sadly another lovely, exciting trip winding up – just over **3000km** travelled with Doris, who never missed a beat -**234** taught and many new friends made- “Thanks” to them all.

Very importantly, I must acknowledge the support I get from many people- **Art** and **Joan Henry** who own **“TIME CRITICAL”** and allow me to use their course for this work – greatly appreciated and if anyone has need of Medical/ First Aid /Safety Training in Perth please get a quote from them - **St John Ambulance** also have been very kind and **Charmaine, Paul, Graeme, Trevor Mason and Mark Morris**, over the years have let me have tremendous amounts of gear that are no longer required in Australia. Many Thanks to all.



Gratitude to **Nicholas** and **SARF** for the fantastic support network here – such mighty work being done by so many good people.

Australia -please support this lovely country– Come –Visit- Zimbabwe is very special and needs good people to arrive and help them preserve all that is so vital to our world's future.

**Tim Scarrott, paramedic and member of the sub committee.**

*Tim, thanks for your amazing efforts to help the wildlife warriors of Zimbabwe and what an incredible adventure you must have experienced!*

## Damien Mander Night '15

Damien Mander, founder of the International Anti Poaching Foundation, was our special guest at Perth Zoo on 23 April. A full house of 150 guests were packed into the auditorium. Damien outlined the massive poaching that is taking place in Kruger, mainly from neighbouring Mozambique through a very porous international boundary. With more than 400 'rhino NGOs' in South Africa, it's amazing that only 3 are tackling this problem of cross border sorties.



We are partnering with IAPF to help slow down this poaching tsunami, starting with a grant of \$20,000 for kitting out some wildlife protectors. Funds were also raised at the event, \$15,000, followed by a further \$40,000 in Melbourne the following week. This is a substantial contribution to this new Mozambique initiative.



Paula Wiegink's “Say No” poster was signed by Damien and Nicholas as part of a Rotary world wide rhino awareness appeal.

Damien is a very inspiring speaker and clearly has a very good following through his FB and website.

# February 2015 Committee trip

As I met the SARF committee members, **Nicholas, Nia, Cameron** and **Evan** at Perth airport, my excitement and anticipation began to grow. Not because I was travelling back to Africa, as in fact I grew up in Kenya and have travelled back a number of times over the years, but because I was finally doing so with a real purpose and mission to go “behind the scenes” with an organisation actively involved in protecting iconic African species, the Black and White Rhino.

The trip started with excitement and adventure and only a few minutes after arriving in Johannesburg we lost Cameron! Once reunited we all had a good laugh and agreed the elevator was to blame. We arrived in Harare after clearing Immigration, fully laden with our full quota of two bags per person, 200kg of items for the field, plus hand luggage with thousands of dollars of tech equipment.

My bags were the only ones searched as the tennis balls I was carrying caught the attention of the airport security officials. After a quick search and 5 minutes explaining that we had them to hand out to children along the way, we were allowed to continue on. This was a very good start to our adventure. **Pete Musto** from Zambezi Society kindly picked us up from the airport and took us to our first stop, the Bronte Hotel, where the remainder of the day was one meeting after the other, once we had sorted out all our donated items for distribution – **Save Valley Conservancy, Lowveld Rhino Trust, WEZ, Chivero NP, AWARE Trust, Lisa Hywood and the DG from NP, Edson Chidziya.**



Day two and we made an early start at 6:00am as it was going to be a long drive to **Save Valley Conservancy**. I was surprised by the very small amount of traffic along our drive and the overgrown farm lands that had been reclaimed by wilderness but appeared devoid of wildlife. Along the journey we handed out tennis balls and treats to children, who were rather hesitant in accepting them. It is probably not something they are accustomed to. When we arrived at Save Valley we were met by **Bryce Clemence**, then further up the road on the drive to **Sango Ranch** we met up with **Dave Goosen**. This was to be our home for the next three nights.



One of the highlights of the time here was attending the game scout recruit training, being run by **Pete Clemence**. This was the beginning of our **Rhino Ranger Support Scheme**. These are unpaid men who hope to prove they have what it takes to protect the rhino and are put through a gruelling physical and mental regime daily to assess their suitability. After the demonstration by the recruits, a few of us had an attempt at the rope climb much to the amusement of the trainees. We ended the visit with a tug-of-war and a presentation by Nicholas.



While in Save Valley, we also attended a parade by 8 of the game scouts from the APU who SARF has made possible through funding. They were then presented with certificates and berets by Nicholas. These men are the front line of the poaching war in this area and their commitment and eagerness was wonderful to see.



We also had an interesting and educational Wild Dog presentation by **Jess** from **African Wildlife Conservation Fund**, highlighting the work they do in the area for Wild Dogs and other large predators. We were particularly impressed by their educational programme for the surrounding communal areas, and committed to donate **\$10,000** of school books for this project – about **1,200** good quality colour books to develop reading skills for years 1 and 2.



Along with the formalities and business side of the visit to Save Valley, we were lucky enough to enjoy some of the beautiful wildlife, including a small family of white rhino while on foot; a mother with her newborn calf and her sub-adult calf, a pride of lions on a kill during a night drive, as well as a genet and a couple of elephants on the same drive.

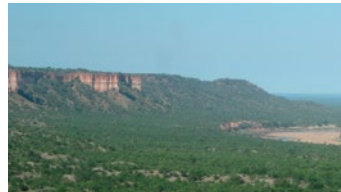
Day five and it was time to move onto our next stop, **Malilangwe Trust**. We arrived in the early afternoon and after lunch (and a much needed rest) went on an evening game drive. The wildlife viewing was wonderful with lots of plains game and we were spoilt with beautiful sightings of 8 white rhino and 2 black rhino. We had our sundowner with a crash of rhino a mere 10 to 15 meters away from us.

The next morning we went on a day trip to **Gonarezhou National Park**, a possible future rhino protection area



funded by **Frankfurt Zoo**. We were treated to a beautiful scenic flight over the park by **Hugo van der Westhuizen**, where we saw lots of elephants as well as a pack of 19 wild dogs! After lunch and a meeting at Hugo's house, we made our way back to Malilangwe for a rhino security presentation by **Mike Ball**.

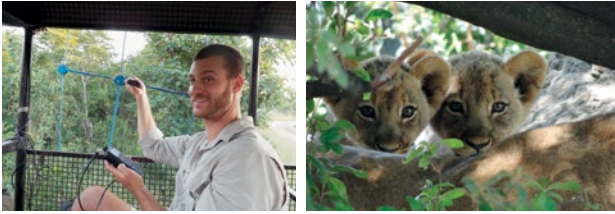
We went on another evening game drive and saw 5 white rhino and a boisterous young elephant bull. An angry buffalo who hit our vehicle twice definitely became the major talking point from that drive.



Day seven and we left Malilangwe early with a quick stop to visit a black rhino cow who had been targeted by poachers on at least four occasions. Having been shot through the eye she is now blind and unlikely to be released. It was a long drive to **Hwange National Park** but a game of car cricket kept us entertained with Cameron prevailing in a tight finish over Nicholas. We stopped off for lunch at **Dambari Wildlife Trust** where **Verity Bowman** kindly put on a lovely meal for us.

We finally arrived at **The Hide** where we spent the next three nights for a meeting or two and a little R&R. What a beautiful place it was! Over the next three days we went on numerous game drives, had delicious meals, met some lovely people and we were treated to some wonderful hospitality. It was great to re-charge the batteries after all of the meetings and great distances we had travelled over the previous few days. Cameron, Evan and myself went out with **Paul de Montille** and **Stephanie** who run the **Hwange Leopard Project** looking for Ivy, a collar leopard. It was a very adventurous mission, bush bashing, vehicle breakdown, flat tyre and driving down a vanishing road but unfortunately we still did not spot our elusive leopard. We did however manage to locate a kill site and assisted in collecting evidence which also added to the adventure. Some of the wildlife we saw in Hwange included a big male lion, a pride of three lionesses with very young

cubs, and also lots of elephants. We also saw a wide variety of plains game and bird species.



We left The Hide on day ten and headed to **Vic Falls** for the final three nights in the country. We travelled via **Sinamatella camp** and met up with **Stephen** and **Nicholas Long**. It looked like a place that in its hay day would have had plenty of visitors, but unfortunately was very quiet with no tourists in sight. After a nice lunch kindly prepared by **Sue**, we got back on the road to the falls. During our stay at the falls we had a few meetings with **Trevor Lane, Charles Brightman, Simon Muchatibaya** and **Amos Gwema**, we visited the **Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust** veterinary clinic as well as a rhino project that was set up by **Damien Mander**.



For our time off we did a little bit of curio shopping, as any good tourist must. We went to **The Boma** for dinner where Nicholas showed off his fine singing skills! We went fishing for tiger fish in the Zambezi, which was simply a beautiful environment to be in even if you are not a fisherman! The **gorge swing** had to be the highlight of our R&R at the falls, something I would have never dreamed of doing. After Nicholas talked us into it and then made it look so easy there was simply no way of backing out. Two countdowns later I finally managed to jump. I don't think my legs have ever kicked faster in my life! It was an experience I will never forget, but perhaps one I may not do again.



In summary, how was the trip and what did I learn? Well it was mostly as I had imagined it would be; lots of meetings and discussions, meeting lots of interesting people, the beauty and mystery that is Africa as well as some fun and R&R along the way. Overall it was a real eye opener to what is really involved in trying to save a species like the rhino in Africa, Zimbabwe to be specific. There are huge challenges in not only protecting existing rhino populations, but also in finding suitable safe new areas where rhinos can be released/reintroduced as certain areas reach carrying capacity.

Throw all the politics into the mix and you get a very challenging, complex situation. The commitment from one man, **Nicholas Duncan**, to dedicate **27 years** of his life to what is now known as Save African Rhino Foundation is truly remarkable and inspirational. Without SARF's commitment and dedication, which has provided numerous rhino conservation projects across Zimbabwe with vital funding, it is my view rhinos in Zimbabwe would have fared a whole lot worse. Let us hope SARF can continue to grow and develop bigger and better strategies to save Zimbabwe's rhinos for ever and ever.

**Ravi Joshi, a new member and now part of our sub committee.**



## Funds spent during 12 months from April 2013 to March 2014

Project or item description	Funds spent (AUD '000s)	%
Private conservancies	304,000	49%
National Parks	160,000	26%
Vietnam advertising	58,000	9.5%
South Africa/Mozambique projects	44,000	7.5%
Other wildlife projects	34,000	5.5%
Save the Rhino Trust, Namibia	16,000	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$616,000</b>	

# A life (gate) crashed by rhinos

If someone had told me that a tour with Nicholas in September 2013 would result in me deciding to tell my clients I only have a limited ability to work with them because of the **Breaking The Brand** project I would have never have believed it. But there you go, it happened, my life has been (gate)crashed by rhinos.

After launching the idea of Breaking The Brand, I spent most of 2013 researching and interviewing the primary users of rhino horn; namely **businessmen and affluent women in Vietnam**. The only two reasons they told me they would stop is if using rhino horn would negatively impact their health or status. This culminated in the design of adverts targeting these user groups. The first adverts were published on 15 September 2014. Since then more than 30 adverts have been placed in key publications; the total cost has been **\$58,000**.

The response to the first 6 months has been positive. By the middle of October 2014 Vietnam was ranked number 3 in the countries downloading information from our web site. It has remained in the top 5 for 6 months. In the same time frame Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi jumped to the second and third cities following us on Facebook and our posts get daily support from Vietnamese citizens. For more information on the campaigns: <http://breakingthebrand.org/campaigns/>

The vast majority of questions Breaking the Brand gets from the Vietnamese media and community are about **horn infusion**, the technique of pumping pesticides into rhino horn under pressure. Users also want to know the impact if they ingest poisoned rhino horn; as a result I decided to go and see the horn infusion process firsthand. During a visit to South Africa I observed 3 rhinos undergoing the infusion process. All indications are that the chemical compound travelled through the horn; within seconds of the toxin (and dye) being infused it was bubbling out of the horn several centimetres from the entry point. More information on horn infusion can be found at: <http://rhinorecueproject.org/>



The Vietnamese also showed an interest in the impact of losing rhinos on local communities in the rhino range countries. Given this interest, I took a 9 day tour to **Northern Kenya** to understand the current perceptions around rhino conservation in the remote communities that border rhino conservancies.

Showing people from Vietnam images such as the one talking to Maasai warriors, who lived in a community that had been impacted by poaching, and being able to tell their stories, has been very useful. It helped to highlight that there was some sense of shame in the Vietnamese people we interviewed. The shame was not about rhinos dying or the deaths of rangers, but the impact this had on the women and on children left behind. This was tested in our **Vietnamese Lunar New Year RhiNo Campaign: Will your luck run out?**



Key to my understanding of the rhino poaching problem have been visits to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in October 2014 and South Africa in February 2015.

While in Vietnam I stayed at a hotel on “Traditional Medicine” street, Lan Ong Street – featured on BBC Newsnight: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqclwkbqAQY> This visit highlighted the rapid growth of local wealth. The amount of restoration and construction in the cities is staggering and the number of luxury brands primed to enter the country is very telling about the increasing spending power. The next 12-24 months will be critical in undermining ‘fashion trends’ such as rhino horn use.

While in Vietnam I was able to discuss with people the perceptions of China’s re-emergence as a market for rhino horn. Apparently the laws in relation to rhino horn possession/consumption in China are clear-cut and the Chinese prefer to utilise loopholes in the law (of which there are many in the case of ivory) instead of directly engaging in illegal behaviour. So until recently most people on the ground in Vietnam and China believed that China was not a major market for rhino horn. It would appear that the recent dramatic increase in price has meant that more Chinese are now willing to break the law and get into the market, either from an investment perspective (betting on future price rises) or seeking high-value artefacts now that ivory has been dropping in price due to increased supply.

What came as a surprise was the impact that the **South African no-trade/pro-trade** debate was having. I was told that this debate is the key thing slowing the Vietnamese Government's response to tackling consumption of rhino horn in Vietnam. This makes perfect sense when you consider the following: Why would any government target its high net worth citizens, who are the primary users of genuine rhino horn, when:

1. These are the business people and entrepreneurs driving Vietnam's rapid economic growth and
2. What they are doing could be made legal in 2016 if the South African Government decides to take the pro-trade route.

This is terrible news for the rhino. Furthermore, if the decision on trade is dragged out until the CITES meeting in 2016, we are facing a long time to be in this limbo and rhino poaching will continue to grow.

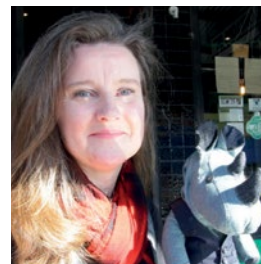
As I am sure you can imagine a demand reduction strategy doesn't sit well alongside a legalised trade debate. From the pro-trade perspective increased demand is seen as a positive, it drives up prices. Certainly this mixed message is causing confusion in demand countries. A greater understanding of this debate was another reason for my recent visit to South Africa. The stand out observation from all the meetings was that **I didn't meet one person who understood the nature of the demand or the users of genuine rhino horn**. This is obviously very concerning given the intensity of the debate and that economists and conservation scientists are creating risk-benefit models to aid a decision based on incomplete information.

Breaking The Brand will continue its efforts and we will be **launching another campaign in Vietnam** in the coming months. Rhinos will remain my primary focus in 2015. My clients have nearly booked the limited number of days I have made available to them and many know we won't be on hand until February 2016! I hope this year will bring better news for rhinos.

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank Nicholas**

**Duncan, the SAVE African Rhino Committee, Sub-Committee and SARF members, without your support this could not have been achieved.**

**These are the views of writer: Dr. Lynn Johnson, Founder, Breaking the Brand, SARF sub committee.**



## AGM

### FILM NIGHT / SOCIAL NIGHT

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Save African Rhino Foundation (Inc) will be held on Thursday, 2 July at 7pm, in the Education Centre at the Perth Zoo, Labouchere Road, South Perth.

#### AGENDA:

1. Acceptance of the minutes from the twenty seventh Annual General Meeting held on 2 July 2014
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Executive Committee
5. Any other business

Nomination forms for positions on the Executive, together with proxy forms, are available by phoning 0417 937655 and nominations should be lodged at 229 Oxford Street by 7.00 pm on 27 June 2015. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the evening.

#### ENTERTAINMENT:

As is usual on these evenings, we will bring you a presentation on the latest rhino operations and other conservation projects in Zimbabwe, as seen in our recent trip. Please feel free to bring your family, friends, and acquaintances along to this social event. Would you please ring us on 9444 6550 as an indication in numbers will assist with catering.

Nicholas Duncan  
**President**



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