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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SAVE AFRICAN RHINO FOUNDATION (inc)

APRIL 2017

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

## President's Report

As we proudly march on towards our **30th Anniversary on 10 June**, a few of us (**Julie Bain, Dee Musson, Maureen de la Harpe, Tim Norman, Tim Scarrott and myself**), can look back on that night at the Wesley Centre in Perth when **Babette Alfieri** inspired us to form our own chapter of **SAVE**, as it then was named. I certainly didn't realise how challenging it was all to become, how much corruption and ineptitude was prevalent, and neither did I consider that 30 years later we would be one of the **oldest and most productive donors to rhino conservation anywhere in the world**. Not bad from our barren office in Leederville.



We've kept going because of the people involved with this organisation – you, our members and supporters, our totally voluntary committee and sub committee, our corporate helpers, and the rangers and managers at the coalface in southern Africa, particularly Zimbabwe, that we sponsor in some form. There are some very dedicated professionals who day in and day out strive their level best to protect the rhino from the poachers, ON BEHALF OF ALL MANKIND. Sadly, there are a desperate, and greedy, few who betray the situation with their mobile phones.

When we started, Zimbabwe had 2,500 black rhinos, dropping to 270 in 1993, peaking at 550 in 2003 and now at 490. In the same time, Africa's figures were 3,500, down to 2,500, up to 5,500 and now at 5,100. So there's been a pretty similar trend. And let's not forget the poor elephant who has been getting massacred over the past five years at the alarming rate of at least 25,000 pa.



The main source of rhino poaching is South Africa. However, there are some positives with deaths decreasing from a 2014 peak of 1,215, to 1,175 in 2015 and 1,054 for last year, predominantly white rhinos (still 19,500 remaining). Zimbabwe is down from 51 in 2015 to 28 in 2016.

I'm pretty sure that you'll realise that it's the emerging middle class wealth of SE Asia that is fuelling this wildlife slaughter, rhino horn for the wealthy Vietnamese and ivory for the Chinese. Recently, the Chinese government pledged to close all its 172 official ivory carving factories and retail outlets by the end of the year but I think they forgot to mention all the illegally operating ones. At least it's a step in the right direction. Our own **Lynn Johnson** continues to crusade on with her **Breaking the Brand** campaign in Viet Nam and it's getting bigger and better.

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Our annual dinner auction was again held at the Hyatt Regency Perth and we were honoured to have as our two special guests, legendary Australian cricketer **Greg Chappell** and mighty fast bowler **Jason Gillespie**. More than 400 guests attended and were highly entertained by our guests, ably interviewed by **Adam Shand**, whilst **Howling Wolves** wines and **Gage Roads** beers were consumed with delight. Naturally this is our big night of the year and we came home at least **\$130,000** better off, a massive boost for our rhino projects. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a success, their details appear in another article in the newsletter.



A couple of weeks later, a small event was held in London with our patron **David Pocock**. We heard all about David's rise to international fame, from his childhood in Zimbabwe, emigrating to Brisbane, captain the Australian Wallabies and now developing a game farm in SW Zimbabwe. Our other special guest was **Bryce Clemence** from Save Valley Conservancy, who illustrated all the challenges facing their rhinos and described how six poaching gangs had been caught in the last year, mostly receiving stiff sentences. Financial management of this event has been a bit slow and we'll end up with more than **\$45,000**, most welcome for our funding this year.



We struggled to put our annual African photographic safari together in 2016 as many were waiting for the 30th Anniversary one this coming September. They certainly put their money where their mouth was as it sold out with a capacity of 23 in just four days, at \$20,000 per head. These were all repeat and referral guests so a very big thanks to all who orchestrated this, especially **Chris and Deb Mitchell** and **Reg and Cheryl Freap**. We'll be

visiting the **South Luangwa NP of Zambia, Victoria Falls, Hwange NP, Chobe NP, Okavango Delta, Etosha in Namibia and Damaraland in the barren NW of Namibia, home to the desert rhino**. What a ripper it will be!



As this newsletter goes to print, seven keen members will be at the luxurious **Sango Lodge** in the **Save Valley Conservancy**, our biggest project. This is our famed **Rhino Ranger Support Scheme (RRSS)**, in which you track rhinos in wild Africa, go on lovely game drives, mix with all the rhino VIPs and make a donation towards the wages, rations and medical aid for one of the rangers for the next year. There's another group of eight going in late May and I highly recommend that you book in early for next April as this is an exclusive SARF enterprise!



For the last three years, **Damien Mander**, founder of the **International Anti Poaching Foundation, IAPF**, has visited us from the Mozambique/Kruger border, where his unit protect the Kruger rhinos from the Mozambiquan intruders, with great success. He continues to enthral his audiences wherever he speaks.

Our intrepid paramedic, **Tim Scarrott**, is currently near the end of his five week voluntary sojourn to all corners of Zimbabwe, giving out his first aid expertise to rangers and their families, probably covering close to 5,000 kms in this time. What better gift could you offer someone in an

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isolated area than the opportunity to learn life saving skills for an emergency situation. This is his fourth consecutive year of doing such fine work, thanks so much, Tim, you're a hero.

In September and October we lost two very dear friends in NSW, **Dee Williamson** and **Shaun Smith**. Both were tremendous stalwarts of SARF, Dee for more than 25 years and Shaun for the last 10. They fought their diseases so bravely but it wasn't to be. They were lovely people and are being sorely missed. The Sydney chapter has now closed, having given great support to a variety of rhino projects over the years, from Tanzania, to Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Our deepest sympathies go to **Peter** and **Ally** and their families. RIP.

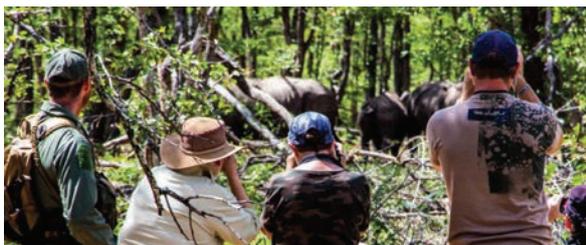
Nearly a year ago I was approached by **Johan Steenhuisen** of **Blue Sky Alternative Investments, Brisbane**, who wished to raise money for South Africa's rhinos in the Kruger area. Joined by his daughter, **Karin**, they have raised close to **\$25,000** so far, which has been dispersed to relevant projects to suit their wishes. Congratulations and thanks to you both and your team, on this magnificent effort, a tremendous initiative.

For our Perth members I hope you'll be able to attend our very special **AGM on Wednesday 14 June** at 7pm and help us celebrate our significant milestone. Hope to see you there?

*Nicholas Duncan*

## Zimbabwe Report

As announced at our 25th AGM, we made a shift from mainly supporting projects within the national parks, where many rhino had been lost, to giving help to those in the private sector, where their numbers were mostly escalating. All that we do can be seen on our website under 'Projects we support'. **In a nutshell, 88% of Zimbabwe's rhinos, both black and white, are in three conservancies in the SE Lowveld** and the remainder are in six national parks, plus five private remnant populations. We are involved in eleven of these fourteen to some extent or another. Each year we are increasing our support to the 88% for obvious reasons.



We helped to fund the dehorning and ear notching of **75 rhinos in Kyle, Matobo, Chivero and Chipinge**, to the tune of \$80,000 between July and September last year. In both **Bubye River Conservancy** and **Save Valley** we are important donors to their anti poaching and rapid reaction rangers, and because of their rhino populations, this is where most of the poaching is focussed. Intelligence gathering is going to be a big part of the rhino's future success and we'll be part of that too.

We were pleased to be a partial donor, together with **TUSK Trust** and **African Wildlife Foundation**, in

the building of Stage 1 of the new staff headquarters at Save Valley, and are delighted to announce that the **Australian High Commission** in Harare have made a grant of **\$55,000** towards Stage 2. Thank you very much to **Suzanne McCourt** and her team.



The Zimbabwe economy is really struggling badly at the moment and with an election looming next year, 'things' are already starting to happen. Cash is very rare these days, having been stripped from the banks by those who had access to it. Its replacement, the Zimbabwean Bond Note in USD currency, has been in the market-place for a couple of months and it remains to be seen how long it can hold its face value. Let's hope we don't return to the dark days of 2007 when inflation hit 156 million percent!! It's impossible to imagine the situation then, other than to say that everyday prices doubled every eight hours!

And all the time through these troubled days, the vast majority of Zimbabweans go about their everyday routines, however challenging that may be, with a smile on their face. They really are very nice people, but you still have to be mindful of the celebrated TIA, This is Africa!

# Rhino Conservation of Primary Importance

From little things big things grow – and in this case, from little things big things flow.

We have not had a newsletter since the students of **Mount Claremont Primary School** held a fund raising day for SAVE African Rhino Foundation (SARF).

Organised by the year 5/6 class under the watchful eye of their teacher **Mrs Ka Mei Rogers** a day of fun activities and cake stalls brought the rhino to the forefront of the school's mind.

There was plenty of imagination in the games devised to keep the kids entertained. For a small contribution to the rhino you could **Pin the Horn on the Rhino, Bowl over the Poachers, Guess the Number of Marshmallows** or **enter the rhino quiz**. If the exertion of playing games was too much, then you could refuel from the array of cakes, muffins, biscuits and snacks on offer at the cake stalls.

**Sophie Murray**, who helped organise the event, said that she had proposed SARF as a charity to support to the class, and after a vote, it had been accepted. "The class was really keen to get behind the rhino as a great cause considering how many of them are being poached each year," she said. "I am a bit biased though because of my Dad's interest in rhinos," she added.

With games tidied away and the remaining crumbs swept up the class tallied up their takings to find they had raised **\$700 – a massive effort from one class group**.

To complete the story Sophie was then lucky enough to travel with her family to Zimbabwe only a day after the fundraiser. With cash in hand the first stop out of Harare was Lake Kyle just east of Masvingo. **Lake Kyle**, operated by National Parks has enjoyed great success in recent times with the battle against poaching and in recent times welcomed a new rhino calf.



At a small presentation with the local rangers, Sophie presented the money to **Mr Chamu Svosvai**, the Area Manager, for the purposes of maintenance of their Land

Cruiser. The vehicle, **Waltzing Matilda**, was in fact the very first sent to Zimbabwe by SARF following its inaugural dinner at **Cocos Restaurant** back in **1991**. It is used to deploy rangers to their protection duties around the park.

After a word of thanks to the rangers and a short ride in the back of Waltzing Matilda, Sophie and family enjoyed a tour of the local primary school. It was a wonderful experience to see the contrast in schooling between Lake Kyle's and Mt Claremont and made even more memorable by the welcoming singing that was performed by the whole school.



SARF would like to thank all the students of Mt Claremont and the assisting staff for making such a generous display of support to the cause of the rhino. It is a great example of how everyone can step up and be of assistance. There is no doubt that every bit helps!



**Cameron Murray, Committee member.**

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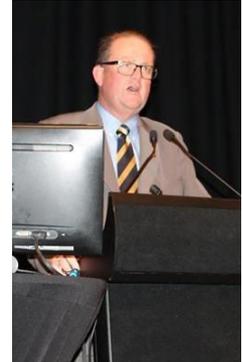
# A Magical Evening with Greg Chappell and Jason Gillespie

After months of preparation, at around 6:30pm on Wednesday the 2 November 2016, sports lovers, animal lovers and people just looking for a good night out, converged onto the Grand Ballroom at the **Hyatt Regency Perth** to once again support the work of SAVE African Rhino Foundation. Always a very important event for SARF as it is by far our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year we were lucky enough to have two guest speakers who are huge superstars as well as being genuinely interested in the work SARF does, **Greg Chappell** and **Jason Gillespie**.



The night started off with some lovely pre drinks supplied by our sponsors on the night, **Howling Wolves** wines and **Gage Roads** beers, while guests did the tour of our amazing main and silent auction items that were up for grabs on the night. Our president, **Nicholas Duncan**, then gave a brief introduction on the problem of poaching in southern Africa and some information on SARF itself. A highlight of Nicholas' speech was the announcement that SARF had for the first time ever, **donated \$1,000,000** to on the ground activities in southern Africa in the previous calendar year! Definitely a first for our organisation and one we are immensely proud of.

After a delicious entree we then got on to the first of our main auction items as **Auctioneer Tiny Holly** got the crowd warmed up with a few jokes. Finally, the crowd got what they had come for when **Adam Shand** took to the stage and welcomed two former test cricket legends, Greg Chappell and Jason Gillespie. Adam, Greg and Jason shared many intriguing and at times hilarious stories of their former playing days as well as expressing their genuine concern for the poaching epidemic and thanks to SARF for what they are doing to help prevent it. We offer a **huge thank you to Greg, Jason and Adam for sharing their time with us.**



After the main event and with the main meals now finished the festivities continued with the main auction items now up for grab. Although the bidding was at times a bit slow we were thrilled that by the end of the night our main auction had raised in excess of **\$78,000**. When we added the proceeds from the silent auction as well as memberships, donations, ticket profits and other sales we finished the night with an amazing **\$99,000!** We also recruited 10 RRSS sponsors at \$3,000 so that's another **\$30,000** for the cause.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of a whole host of sponsors and supporters. Our main event sponsor is **Travel Directors, 9242 4200**, our official travel partner, who offer a wide range of group tours to all corners of the world as well as a full travel service for individuals and corporates.

**Primewest** property investors offer wholesale property syndicates and developments and donated some south west holiday packages. **Howling Wolves** wines offered you their range of whites, reds and sparkling throughout the evening and **Gage Roads** beers quenched people's thirst from the first ball onwards. **Picasso Print & Design** did a mighty job with our 36 page catalogue, our 4 page brochure and 2 page RRSS flyer.

It's a very big thank you to all of the above as well as to all the following businesses that provided auction items and support – **Hyatt Regency Perth; Perth Audio Visual; Scruffy Dog Designs; Brinkhaus Jewellers; African Bush Camps; Singita Pamushana; Amalinda Camp; Sango Ranch; Ivory Lodge; Victoria Falls Safari Lodge; The Hide; Ngoma Safari Lodge; The Victoria Falls Hotel; Top Gun Tyre and Mechanical; Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef; Kombi Keg WA; Injidup Spa Retreat; Regency Beach Club Dunsborough; Channel Nine commentary team; 6PR commentary team; Annalice Framing; Sword World and Mark Beamish.**



Without our main buyers we would have been stranded so thanks to **Clive, Denis, Domenic, Elizabeth, Evan, Jim, Linton, Robert, Pat and Syd.**

**and girls, Evan, Evelyn, Harrison and Guildford boys and girl, Heather, Julie, Kate, Katherine, Maree, Mark, Martin, Matt, Mike, Nia, Sacha, Victoria and Wayne – thank you all so very much.**

And what a great group of helpers we had to set up all the displays and monitor all the payments – **Barbara, Cameron**

**Evan Litis, Secretary.**

We would like to thank the following suppliers and sponsors for their ongoing assistance – much appreciated.



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## SARF Committee trip to Zimbabwe 27 January – 10 February 2017

This was to be my first behind the scenes SARF committee trip to Zimbabwe and turned out to be a very positive experience for me.

I knew this trip would be very different to the three SARF safaris already experienced due to being a different time of year – it would be hot, humid and wet. The trip was specifically to **meet up with the relevant rhino and conservation stakeholders that SARF fund and work with.** The added bonus on this trip would be some game viewing, and a chance to meet with the rhino rangers, the dog patrol unit, and experiencing Zimbabwe in the wet season.

We met at Perth airport for the flight over – ten in total with five committee members and five non committee.

Unfortunately Nicholas was unable to accompany us due to an urgent call to England for him to be with his ailing mother. As a result straws were drawn by the committee members and **Evan** lost so he was appointed group leader. (He did an excellent job apart from meeting nearly every Zimbabwe Police Officer on our drive tour through Zimbabwe.)

Having seen firsthand the issues revolving around supply of life sustaining water to animals in Hwange and diesel supply it was extremely beneficial to hear that there are now some thirty solar generated pumps providing water throughout Hwange National Park

Our group met with a number of key players and enjoyed some very interesting conversations.



Some of the many highlights of the trip were:

- Visiting the amazing **Lisa Hywood** at her pangolin rescue shelter and small cat breeding programme.
- Seeing some of the fantastic countryside of Zimbabwe as we drove from **Harare** through **Save Valley Conservancy, Malilangwe, Gonarezhou National Park, Buby River Conservancy and Matobe National Park and Bulawayo.**
- Meeting with the dog units and seeing the dogs at work and the dedication of the handlers. **Evan** and **Ollie** tried keeping up with a foot patrol and realised it was not an easy task.



- Meeting with **Suzanne McCourt** the Australian High Commissioner for Zimbabwe and her deputy **Peter MacFarlane**. Our group enjoyed the discussions and even had a barbecue lunch with her.
- Meeting with **Bryce** and **Shannon** at **Save Valley**, staying at **Hammond Ranch**, and trekking through the dense bush to watch white rhino close up in their own environment.



- Experiencing the country in the wet season and still seeing a variety of wildlife amongst the dense foliage.



- Getting extremely bogged in the bush and trying to extricate the vehicle whilst looking over your shoulder into the dense undergrowth wondering what was out there. (This was not the only occasion to get bogged)



- We still saw the 'big five', however the leopard was only a fleeting glimpse at night.
- Meeting **Natasha Anderson** (an Australian) undertaking rhino work at **Buby River**, Zimbabwe's biggest rhino project and also the biggest target for the poachers. We took afternoon drives in the rain to look for lion. We had located a fresh kill earlier in the day and were fortunate to locate a lion in the vicinity late in the evening.
- Afternoon / sunset boat cruise on Lake Malilangwe with **Mark Saunders**.
- Rhinos at **Malilangwe**, arguably the best breeding programme in Africa.



- Seeing the ancient rock art at Matobo and stalking up close to the white rhinos
- Experiencing an assortment of wildlife even though vegetation was very thick.

It was an enlightening trip and a thoroughly enjoyable time being with the group.

**Chris Mitchell, who is now on our sub committee.**

# Damien Mander Night

It was standing room only in early March when we hosted **Damien Mander** at the zoo. The evening was so popular it required the opening of extra space to accommodate those keen to hear his latest update. There is no doubt everyone left with a new level of inspiration for rhino conservation.

Damien, founder of **International Anti- Poaching Foundation (IAPF)**, arrived straight from southern Africa where in the last 12 months IAPF's project in southern Mozambique on the eastern side of Kruger has played a key role in the anti-poaching effort. So successful have been their early efforts that Kruger has seen a drop in poached rhinos for the first time in the last decade. In the south east of Kruger this may be as high as an 80% reduction. This can in part be attributed to the project started by IAPF in the **Greater Lebombo Conservancy** – based initially in the **Sabie Game Reserve** restricting easy access to this key area of Kruger. In recent times this has seen an expansion of the project in to neighbouring reserves including **Incomati** to the south.



In his usual direct and confronting way, Damien presented the reality of what is involved in the war on poaching in this region. He highlighted the level of organisation of the crime they face and the wealth and power that some locals in Mozambique enjoy as a result of the illegal poaching. In

addition the risks were highlighted with graphic pictures of members of his anti-poaching team after a run in with and beating by local villagers who benefit from the spin off of the poaching epidemic.



After a highly informative presentation the floor was opened to questions from the audience and followed by a short auction of trips to see IAPF's Vic Falls project in Zimbabwe, and other items. A note of appreciation must be made of **Steve** and **Evan** who stepped in to fill the very large shoes of Nicholas on the auction floor who was unfortunately unable to be there on the night due to an extended stay in England to be with his sick mother.

The project in Mozambique remains a particular focus of fundraising by SARF and Damien's evening highlighted the value to the rhino population for our continued support of this.

Our thanks go to all those who attended and in particular for the financial support given. We raised **\$7,400** for this important project. Thank you also to **Perth Zoo** for providing the venue – in particular to **Holly Thompson** and **Emma DeMamiel** who assisted on the night, – Damien himself and the team effort from the committee for putting on what was a great evening once again.

**Cameron Murray**

## Field Expenditure April 2016 – March 2017

Rhino Conservancies	\$420,000
National Parks Projects	\$185,000
Mozambique/Kruger Border	\$107,000
Breaking The Brand, Vietnam Advertising	\$95,000
South Africa	\$32,000
Other Wildlife Projects	\$30,000
Save The Rhino Trust Namibia	\$29,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$898,000</b>

