



Vol. 32 No. 1

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SAVE AFRICAN RHINO FOUNDATION (inc)

APRIL 2018

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

President's Report



Your committee for 2017-18 is; Nicholas Duncan, President; Nia Carras, Vice President; Evan Litis, Secretary; Heather Atwell, Treasurer; and committee members Evelyn Wong, Cameron Murray, Mark Beamish, Mike Palmer and Rick Hurlbatt. Thanks everyone for another great year.

We are now nearly through our 31st year and for our newer members, here are a couple of interesting facts. We are the **second oldest rhino conservation group in the world, after Save the Rhino Trust, Namibia**, and your president is the longest serving serious rhino fundraiser anywhere. We have certainly made our presence felt in Zimbabwe, especially over the past 10 years, and are the biggest non-government donors to rhino conservation there...

The biggest news coming out of Zimbabwe last year was the fall of the **Mugabe** regime. **Emmerson Mnangagwa**, who had served in the various Mugabe cabinets for all of the **37 years**, launched a peaceful 'coup' with remarkable success. Who can forget the TV scenes of millions of Zimbabweans descending on the main squares of Harare to voice their happiness at this positive change? Initial signs are that the new president has acknowledged the importance of wildlife and tourism to the future growth of Zimbabwe.

We had an amazing **30th celebratory AGM** last June, attended by 92 members and guests. The meeting started with a congratulatory presentation being made by former Government Minister **Stephen Smith**. Video welcomes came from patrons David Gower and David Pocock, followed by messages from **Babette Alfieri, Verity Bowman and Stephen Long**, all key players in our rhino journey. All sorts of interesting and lovely things happened over the course of two and a half hours and thank you to the committee for organising such a magical evening.

There have been a number of significant arrests in recent months, the most notable being **Mr Big of rhino horn trafficking** in Zimbabwe, who was seized last May. Four times before he has managed to escape from the system and we hope for just punishment this time from the authorities in Botswana, where he has been extradited.

A year ago, The Australian High Commission in Harare

Continued over the page

very kindly donated \$55,000 towards Stage 2 of the new Ranger Headquarters in Save Valley Conservancy, particularly a house for the APU manager. This project was kick started by the Deputy Head of Mission, **Peter Macfarlane** on 27 May, when he, together with **David Pocock, Bryce Clemence, Stanley Gono, Dave Goosen** and myself, turned the first soil for the new foundations. Thanks so much AHC for such a marvellous contribution.

2017



their management teams too. They are working at the coalface on behalf of the rest of the world that doesn't have that opportunity, in order to preserve these species for generations to come.

Around Africa there has also been a slight decrease in rhino poaching, though South Africa is still a horror zone with just over 1,000 deaths, with only a further 70 in Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

One of our patrons, **Nick Price**, very kindly arranged for a donation of **\$25,000** through the **PGA Tour** and the **Presidents Cup**. Every two years, the **USA** plays an **International** team and all the players and officials donate their services, the proceeds are calculated, and then everyone chooses which charities they'd like to support. Nick also gave **\$20,000** to the **Bhejane Trust**, our partners in **Sinamatella and Victoria Falls**. Thank you so much for your tremendous support, Nick, and hope to see you in Melbourne next year.

Our biggest ever fundraising safari, **23 guests, 23 days and 7 destinations**, took place last September and was very enjoyable and successful, with plenty of elephant, lion, leopard, painted dog and antelope sightings, a true feast of wildlife viewing.

2018



At the recent **National Rhino** meeting in Harare, the population numbers show an increase of about 5% over last year, **black rhinos going up from 489 to 520 and whites from 356 to 373**, for an overall total of **893**, the best since about 1990 – terrific news. The three Lowveld rhino conservancies look after 84% of the national herd and hence, that's where we're mainly focussing. The main National Parks for rhinos are Matobo and Kyle. This year, we will be funding the **total dehorning of rhinos in Chipinge, Kyle, Chivero and Matobo, at least \$80,000.**



Let's not underestimate the significance of the above figures, and take this chance to pay **tribute to all the brave rangers who patrol the wildlife areas, and**

Committee member, vet **Cameron Murray**, and five colleagues, completed a three day cycle ride in our south west last November, and Cameron used an internet fundraising page to raise just over **\$5,000** for our cause – great effort Cameron and thanks a lot.



Our annual fundraising dinner auction was held a bit later in the summer than usual and **415 guests** had a great night with **David Gower, Glenn Mitchell, Bryce Clemence and Givemore Baku**. And a tremendous **\$130,000** was raised after a few extra sales of items over the ensuing week. Wow! Thanks to our special guests and all our purchasers.



A few days after our dinner we had an evening at the zoo with **Bryce and Givemore**, our special guests from Zimbabwe. It was pretty obvious why we are supporting them so much, as they showed their passion and commitment to their task of protecting 172 rhinos. You really must come on one of our **Rhino Ranger Support Scheme** trips one day, so interesting and exciting in the wild with the rangers and the animals. And it's only \$6,950, all inclusive, there are still two places available, 1-9 June.



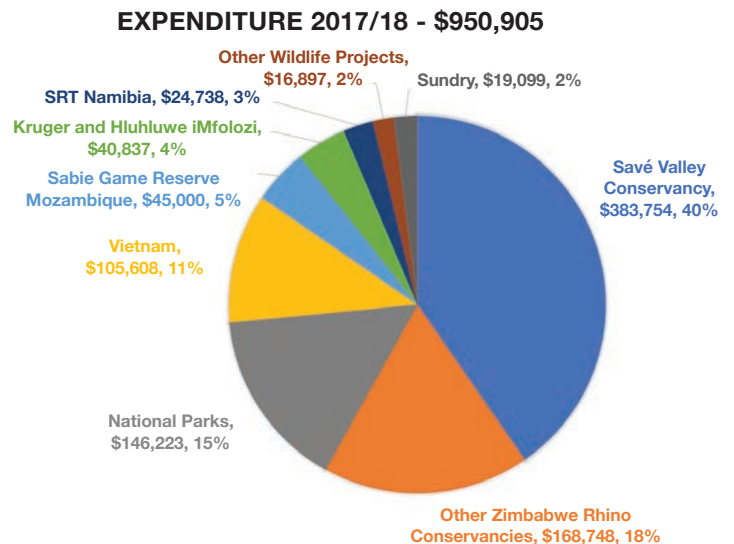
Our voluntary ex ambulance man, **Tim Scarrott**, has just finished his annual tour of duty in Zimbabwe, driving over **3,500 kms** and conducting more than 15 first aid courses to over **290 rangers** and their families, helping them learn basic resuscitation methods and first aid. What a gift! Sadly his trip was cut short when he returned to Perth on the passing of his father in law. Condolences to Tim, Kate and family.



Our next **AGM** is being held a bit earlier than usual, **Wednesday 30 May**. We will need to change our constitution to fall in line with new government legislation and hopefully, this won't take long to be effected. As always, it will be a very interesting and informative evening and we again hope for a good attendance by our followers. Elsewhere is the official notice of meeting.

Lynn Johnson of **Breaking the Brand** fame, has progressed on to **Nature Means More**, and tells her story further on in this newsletter. Please support her efforts whenever you can, thanks.

This last financial year, to 31 March, has been our **biggest ever, with a whopping \$950,905** being distributed to **23 different projects, 17 in Zimbabwe, 2 in South Africa, 1 each in Viet Nam, Mozambique, Singapore and Namibia**. This takes the figure past **\$9 million** since we started in 1987.



Rhino conservation in Zimbabwe has lost its longest serving field officer, **Norman English**, who has now retired after 30 years in **Chete, Sinamatella, Midlands Conservancy and Bubye Conservancy**. He has been at the forefront of the rhino wars for all these years and his body and mind have now served their time and seek pastures new. Thanks, Norman, for all that you've done in your long career and all the best for the future.



Last November we lost one of our long standing members, **Emeritus Professor Colin Groves**, who was one of the world's leading anthropologists and taxonomists who identified more than 50 species of animal during his career. "Colin was a giant in his field, a great researcher, teacher and mentor to his students, and one of the great treasures of ANU," his Vice Chancellor said. Our condolences go to Phyll and the family.

The conservation world has also lost a further three stalwarts in recent months. Legendary wildlife artist, **David Shepherd**, died in September after a ten week illness. For over **50 years** David dedicated his life to protecting some of the world's most iconic and endangered animals. Using his talent as an **artist to generate funds** for their protection he inspired hundreds of others to follow and, in 1984, established his own **wildlife foundation** to give something back to the animals that had given him so much success as an artist. Since then, they've raised **millions of pounds** and funded hundreds of wildlife projects, particularly for elephants, rhinos and tigers. To Avril and their four children we extend our deepest sympathies. www.davidshepherd.org



Earlier this year we were stunned to learn that **Esmond Bradley Martin** had been killed in his house in Nairobi, with a stab wound to his neck. He was the world's leading expert in the illegal tusk and horn trading routes. The former UN special envoy for rhino conservation was known for his undercover work investigating the black market. The US citizen had recently returned from a research trip to Myanmar, and was in the process of writing up his findings..

For decades he had risked his life to secretly photograph and document illegal sales of ivory and rhino horn, travelling to China, Vietnam, and Laos to pose as a buyer and establish the details of black market prices.



And just recently, also in Nairobi, the matriarch of elephant orphans, **Dame Daphne Sheldrick**, lost her battle with cancer. She was famous for helping deepen the world's understanding of elephants and rhinos. She pioneered raising orphaned infant elephants and rhinos on milk, and that knowledge has since saved 230 elephants in Kenya.



"Daphne lived alongside elephants and learned to read their hearts...she understood their fragility, their intelligence, their capacity to love," her organisation said.
www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

So, as we enter our 32nd year, we can look back on a very satisfactory 31st one, with plenty of positives coming out of Zimbabwe, and we encourage you all to please keep up your support of the rhinos, and if possible, to kindly give even more, please? And it is near the end of the financial year so it's good timing for you. Hopefully you'll find the rest of this newsletter to be most informative and interesting. Thank you.

Nicholas Duncan

STOP PRESS – Bryce, Shannon, National Parks and Police have just intercepted a gang of three, including two soldiers, with a silenced weapon and cyanide, about to enter Save Conservancy – great job, guys.

Best of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

It was with a sense of excitement and anticipation that a group of us gathered at Perth International airport to start our journey, last September. This was the **30th anniversary safari** and it promised to be a big trip, jam packed with wonderful experiences. We would soon be joined by the rest of our group in Zambia, making 23 in total, ready to begin our adventure.

We started our adventure at **Mfuwe Safari Lodge** in the **South Luangwa National Park**, a new addition to the safari itinerary and it was a wonderful way to start. The staff there were warm and welcoming, the accommodation was sensational, and the game viewing did not disappoint. As first-time visitors to Africa we tried to keep our expectations low, but Zambia had a surprise around every corner. From elephants munching on trees, less than a metre from your room, leopards that were keen to join us for a sundowner and a pride of lions complete with playful cubs, caring mothers and majestic male lion, Mfuwe ticked many of the African holiday boxes. If our trip had ended here I would not have been disappointed.



For many on our trip going to **The Hide, Hwange**, was like visiting an old friend with many familiar faces joined by some new fresh guides and staff. The staff at the Hide went above and beyond to look after us while we stayed with them, providing us with excellent food, great company and knowledgeable guides. Here some guests were lucky enough to go on a walking safari, as well as spend the night away from the main camp in a tree house known as the Dove's nest. The water hole outside the Hide provided exceptional viewing with visits from buffalo and elephants providing a close encounter from the comfort of the lounges on the deck.



Our foundation started in June 1987 as a result of Nicholas being inspired by **Babette Alfieri**, Vice President of the original SAVE in New York, and all the help she was already giving Zambia and Zimbabwe. Would you believe it, they reunited in Mfuwe on this trip, 30 years later!



After the solitude and peaceful atmosphere of the Hide it was a shock to the system to find ourselves back in Victoria Falls, this time at the historic and grand **Victoria Falls Hotel**. Here we took some time away from game viewing for a slightly more relaxed pace. During our stay we filled our time visiting the markets, walking the falls, bird watching, white water rafting and visiting a private game reserve. It was at this private reserve that we got to see our first rhino of the trip. The mother and calf were shy at first, but soon came to say hello, and an experience that I am sure is a highlight for many in our group.



Soon we were back on the road again, heading into **Botswana** and the **Chobe Safari Lodge**. Here we were delighted by local wildlife who frolicked and relaxed around the accommodation, playful mongoose, cheeky monkeys and hungry warthogs were a common site around the buildings. The morning routine was early starts to hustle for the best driver and route for the day, but our perseverance paid off with a phenomenal sighting on our last day. On the morning drive we got the call that someone had spotted the dogs, as we raced down the banks of the river we were delighted to see a pack of hunting dogs chase down and kill an impala. All the cars from our trip got good position and we all relished in the opportunity to take some up-close photos of these elusive animals.



After Chobe the group got to enjoy the adventure of some small charter flights into the **Okavango Delta**. Here the group split with half going to **Khwai Tented Camp** and half going to a mobile luxury camp. We were lucky enough to enjoy the hospitality of **Capture Africa** who provided the accommodation and food at our mobile camp. The staff cohesion was wonderful, and we felt welcomed from the moment we arrived, the staff welcomed us with singing and dancing which was a real treat. The staff were exceptional, the atmosphere warm and inviting, the location was breath taking and with a very tearful good bye it is safe to say no one wanted to leave.



Next, we visited **Okakeujo, Etosha**, here we were lucky to have a waterhole behind the resort which was lit up at night with amphitheatre seating. After a long and jam-packed trip, it was with great effort that we got up at 11 o'clock at night to go to the water hole, but we were not disappointed. Rhino frequently visit this water hole and here you get to see these normally solitary animals interacting in unique and interesting ways. The rest of our time at Okakeujo was filled with more game drives and even a family of ostrich crossing the road as we headed deeper in to Namibia for our final stop on the journey. We also came across a group of children on a save the rhino promotional educational mission.



After a long day of driving we arrived at **Etendeka Mountain Camp** where we were greeted by Shana and her team. A lovely way to finish the trip the atmosphere here was slower and more relaxed than the fast-paced journey we had so far. The scenery was mesmerising with vast desert spreading out in front of you, framed by mountains and rocky outcrops. Here we enjoyed more game drives, and a nature walk with local guides.



Finally, the group enjoyed a celebratory dinner in **Windhoek** before a final morning of shopping. From here we all started our long journey home, saying many farewells as people went in different directions. After a wonderful and jam packed African adventure everyone was happy to be heading for their own bed and a few good nights sleep, but it was a bitter sweet goodbye to the African continent and to all the new friends made there. As first timers to Africa we were definitely spoilt and will certainly be putting another trip to Africa on the bucket list, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Belinda Freap

Why not register your interest in the 2019 safari?

Committee trip, November

Careful planning is all important when it comes to travel. With this in mind plans were made for the committee trip to go in November 2017 to avoid the run up to an expected Zimbabwean election in the early part of 2018 – an event expected to have an air of unpleasantness in light of the instability surrounding leadership in the ruling party, ZANU-PF. Our timing could not have been chosen more incorrectly as it turned out!

As history now tells, the coup that wasn't a coup eventuated just as the travelling members of the committee - **Lynn, Nia, Cameron, Patrick, Peter and Nicholas** - gathered in Harare! It was an anxious Wednesday on the day of departure, following developments on the day the tanks rolled in to Harare. Communications whizzed back and forth from contacts in Harare and the Australian Embassy also but eventually flights were boarded. Then in Johannesburg a significant flight delay led to queries as to whether the airport in Harare had been shut down, before a boarding call relieved the doubt.



On arrival in to Harare we were greeted by the site of heavily armed military on the roof and at the exits. It was with relief that once away from the airport the streets of Harare were remarkably normal. The locals were largely going about life as normal despite the momentous events that were happening a stone's throw away in the central city. It was still good to reach the sanctuary of the Bronte Hotel and continue to take in the events of the day as the situation unfolded.

It's not common to be able to claim that you were in an African country during a coup and as far as an African coup goes it was about as peaceful as could ever have been imagined. Our trip continued exactly as planned. We had meetings with **Save Valley committee members** in Harare and met with the **Australian Ambassador, Suzanne McCourt**, at the embassy before we left town. Once out of Harare, Zimbabwe was essentially normal

except for three notable differences. Firstly there was a palpable air of optimism amongst the people you spoke to with regard the potential changes in government. Secondly there was a willingness to talk about it – politics was historically always a no go subject. Finally and with a far more significant impact on us directly, all the police had been pulled off the streets. As such we saw only 5 road blocks, run by the military, in our 9 days travel when normally it would have been expected to see 10-20 police road blocks on any full day spent on the road.

We stopped near Kyle to deliver rations and some equipment to the National Parks team at **Lake Kyle** and on to **Save Valley** where we were hosted by **Sango**. Here we spent time with **Bryce Clemence**, head of the anti-poaching operations, and **Dave Goosen**, the manager of Sango.



We toured the site and foundations of the second stage of building for the ranger base which includes office and housing for Bryce and for which the Australian Embassy made a significant contribution to through their **direct aid program**. Also on the agenda was a demonstration by the tracking dogs which highlighted their important abilities as a potent addition to the anti-poaching effort.



From Save Valley we visited **Malilangwe** to the south for one night and then headed further to the south to **Bubye Valley Conservancy**. We were fortunate to be hosted for an evening sundowner by owner **Charles Davy** which became even more memorable for the fact that we marked the occasion by hearing of the news of **President Mugabe's resignation**. It was a momentous occasion, after 37 years under his rule we were fortunate to share the high hopes of the country as his replacement, **Emmerson Mnangagwa** took up the reins.

Our time in Bubye Valley was brief but highlighted that the country's rhinos still face a significant poaching threat. Bubye currently is under the greatest poaching pressure of the main rhino strongholds in Zimbabwe and it will take a well co-ordinated approach to devise a plan to make inroads in to this. In **2017** there were **62 poaching incursions** with **26 rhino losses**. As a key black rhino population though, investment in this by all stake holders is well worth the effort as it is a vast property with great potential for maintaining a strong breeding population. We understand that steps are underway for new leadership to be put into place.



The travelling members parted ways in Bulawayo with Nicholas heading to the UK, some to Perth and a few travelling on to Hwange and Vic Falls. While the concept of arriving in to a country going through political upheaval may not have been advisable in so many ways, the reality was we still achieved all that we set out to do and enjoyed a front seat view of a significant historical event for the country. We can only hope that the change that has occurred means improved prosperity for the country and its people and if this occurs then it can only be good for the wildlife also!

Cameron Murray

31st AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty First Annual General Meeting of the Save African Rhino Foundation (Inc) will be held on Wednesday, 30 May 2018 at 7pm, in the Education Centre at the Perth Zoo, Labouchere Road, South Perth

AGENDA:

1. Acceptance of the minutes from the Thirtieth Annual General Meeting held on 14 June 2017.
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Executive Committee
5. Notice of Motion to be presented at the AGM;

"That Save African Rhino Foundation (Inc) adopt the Rules as recommended by the Executive Committee"

Explanation: The Associations Incorporation Act 2015 which took effect 1 July 2016 has required us to make some alterations to our Constitution which is now referred to as "The Rules". The objectives and aims of the Foundation remain unchanged and the alterations made are purely to ensure compliance with the new Act. The proposed Rules to be adopted will be forwarded by email.

6. Any other business

Nomination forms for positions on the Executive, together with proxy forms, are available by phoning 0417 937 655 and nominations should be lodged at 229 Oxford Street by 7.00 pm on 25 May 2018. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the evening. Please feel free to bring your family, friends and acquaintances along to this 31st year of SARF. Would you please email us, nicholas@savefoundation.org.au, or ring us on 9444 6550, as an indication in numbers will assist with catering.

Thank you,

Nicholas Duncan
President

Riding for Rhino

For 6 middle aged men their weekday and weekend rides took on a tougher look for 3 months leading up to November last year. Committee member, **Cameron** gathered up 5 willing participants to join him in taking up the challenge of the **Tour of Margaret River (ToMR)**. To add encouragement to the SARF team's training, an **Everyday Hero page** was established to allow supporters to back their efforts.

The ToMR is a four stage team road race event in the south west consisting of two team time trials and two road races. It is an annual event which attracts a range of riders from professional to weekend enthusiasts. This edition of the race was based around Nannup and while the countryside was a beautiful back drop for the riders the weather was not so kind. The first two days topped 35 degrees which added an element of challenge for all riders.



The first time trial saw the SARF team finish mid field of the 100 teams in the event. This placed them in Division E for the road races through the hills and forests of the Nannup region. The final time trail covered the 42 kilometres back to Nannup from Balingup along the undulating banks of the Blackwood. It was heads down and legs spinning though for the team, without much time to take in the views as they raced to improve their position.

After 3 days of riding it was a 49th position finish – not enough to attract offers from teams heading to the Tour de France but more than enough for 6 riders to have enjoyed an exhausting 3 days while gaining a bit of exposure for the SARF cause. In addition, the final count for the Everyday Hero fundraising page saw a little **over \$5000** raised to help the conservation efforts for the rhinos in Zimbabwe. For that reason alone the hours spent on the bike with the legs screaming, “no more,” was well worth it.

Our thanks go to **Dave Lyons, Dave Richards, Dave Ball, Martin Williams and Terry Kennedy** who joined the SARF team with Cameron.



It is also an opportunity to remind all our supporters that Everyday Hero gives a wonderful platform for anyone to create their own fundraising event to support SARF. It is a very easy system to register your event with and choose SARF as the beneficiary. Every bit of help we receive makes a great difference.

Have a look at www.everydayhero.com

Another example of Everydayhero is **Roxy Hitchcock** using it to raise **\$1,216** for the rhinos by selling jewellery to her friends. Congratulations Roxy and thanks so much.
<https://give.everydayhero.com/au/roxy-s-rhino-rescue>

Garage Sale

Lynn Vale and **Rhonda Braid** held a clearing sale on 14 April and raised **\$470** for the rhinos. Thanks ladies, both loyal supporters of SARF, Lynn having been on 8 trips and 2 to come this year!



The Inspiration You Need

Appetites were whet at the Gala Dinner but all was laid bare at Perth Zoo the following Monday night. The surface was scratched at the Hyatt when **Bryce Clemence (Head of anti-poaching at Save Conservancy) and senior ranger Givemore Baku Save Valley**, gave a short presentation on their work at the front line of rhino protection but for the lucky 140 people who made it to the zoo, the full picture was exposed



Bryce took over the anti-poaching effort at Save Valley in 2012. At this time the conservancy was under significant poaching pressure with losses during the 6 years leading up to his commencement running at about 10% - meaning an overall declining population. Attendees heard about the steps he had taken to firstly understand the logistical needs of the conservancy, then recruit and train an anti-poaching unit and just as importantly build an intelligence network to try and be one step ahead of the poachers entering the conservancy. In recent times he has enjoyed **enormous success with 7 significant arrests including the Mr Big of Zimbabwean rhino horn trade**, Dumisano Moyo, who was apprehended on intelligence under an Interpol warrant from Botswana. This was a major win for all Zimbabwean rhino populations.

If enthusiasm and passion are the hallmark of success then everyone present would have taken home a clear message – **Bryce and his unit are making a difference**. He detailed the challenges that are daily faced and the tools being used to combat them. In recent times the unit has expanded to include a tracking dog unit which has enhanced the ability to track when it becomes dark, begun using drones to assist with aerial vision when on the spore of poachers and is soon to take to the trees! Using his time in Perth to full advantage Bryce had researched and sourced tree climbing equipment, kindly assisted by **Alex from CSP Group** who donated **\$5,500** of specialist

arborist climbing kit in order to set up tree observation points at strategic waterholes. His aim is to have rangers create temporary and mobile observation posts for short periods in key areas that keep them out of danger of animals and give them a visual advantage from a location that poachers will not be expecting to be seen.



For many though, the highlight of the evening was the input from **Givemore**. On his first trip out of Africa, he gave his own impression on the difference that SARF funding makes to the lives of those that are truly at the sharp end of the fight of the rhinos. He reinforced the importance of good kit and equipment, the morale boosting aspect of improved living conditions and we are sure he will have returned to Zimbabwe with a far greater appreciation of how much his work is valued by people living a world away from his home.

As always, these evenings are an important opportunity for our supporters to dig in to their pockets and help out. Our sincere thanks goes to those who joined in the spirit of the mini auction or made a donation on the night. More than **\$11,000** was raised on the night, thanks everyone. The evening was undoubtedly the inspiration you needed to know that your contribution really does make a difference on the ground in Zimbabwe. With the end of the financial year approaching YOU too can make a difference and you may rest assured this will be much appreciated by those, like Givemore and Bryce, on the front line!

As a result of this presentation, **Oliver Basson** purchased and donated 10 pairs of field boots, and **Nina Hobson** arranged for two pairs of top of the range boots to walk out of Perth with Bryce and Givemore, thanks to **Steel Blue Boots**. And **Debbie Mitchell** arranged for a further 16 pairs of quality used boots to be used by the rangers.

Looking Back at 2017



1. Maintaining and building the Special Species Protection Unit (SSPU)

The SSPU is run by Environmental Stewardship Trust (EST), comprising **Bryce, Shannon and Pete Clemence**, and boasts a team of **37 men**. We do not currently have the funding to increase the number of scouts and going forward are looking at other ways to maintain our effectiveness in the field.

As always our donors have contributed significantly to the success of the unit - not just financially but also with donations in kind. A second hand **land cruiser and seven motorbikes** were donated to the SSPU which has helped considerably with the logistics of operating the unit. This same donor who is our biggest donor, namely **Save African Rhino Foundation (SARF)**, also contributed to the repairs for an Isuzu double cab that has been a non-runner for a number of years now. This vehicle is now being used for intelligence operations. We now have 3 land cruisers, 1 landrover, 1 double cab and 13 motorbikes for the unit. These vehicles help us achieve a quicker and greater coverage within the Conservancy.



Nicholas Duncan of SARF with Bryce Clemence and Samuel Gona showcasing the new cruiser

SARF also donated four **aerial cameras** which has been a welcome addition to our arsenal and we believe these have been a great help, along with the dog unit, with increasing the number of meat poaching arrests which have meant

we have been able to recover large numbers of snares that have been set. This has helped protect all our valuable species, not just rhino, from the devastating effect of snares.

Again with the help of a donation from SARF, we were able to purchase a **secure radio repeater** for the South of the Conservancy which is only accessible by the unit and this helps greatly with ensuring secure communication of sensitive information both within the South unit and between the North and South units.

Other generous donations from SARF of **uniforms, boots, tents, camelbacks, laptops, cameras and rewards** for scouts all assist in maintaining morale within the unit and let the scouts know we acknowledge that they put their lives on the line every day for our rhino.

Also contributing to the morale of the unit, was the completion at the beginning of the period, of the first phase of our new base. This provided dormitories, ablutions and a kitchen and dining area for our unit. A new donor, the **Australian High Commission** stepped in to provide funding for the material required for Phase 2 of the new base which will give us a manager's house and office and storeroom facilities. Brick-making is underway and we hope to be able to complete this project in 2018. **Lynn Johnson** kindly donated a **television** and SARF gave some new **mattresses**.



SSPU base



Scouts admiring the latest acquisition



SSPU Manager's house and offices under construction

The dogs section to the unit started operations at the beginning of the period with the donation of 2 specialist dogs and all necessary kit. They have proved to be another valuable dimension to our anti-poaching strategy and a further 2 dogs have just been donated to the South section of the unit along with the funding to build a separate dog unit in the South. This unit is still in its infancy and we expect great results going forward as new techniques and methods are experimented with on the ground. Grateful thanks to **Joy Smith** and the **North Star Foundation** for the donation of the dogs, equipment and their upkeep.

With donor funding we were able to train ranch scouts on 4 ranches in the SVC - 1 ranch in the South and 3 in the North. We also interviewed and assessed a large group of men with the aim of creating a pool of good potential men for both ranch and unit use. This means we have been able to train ranch scouts to a better standard and we have a stronger ranch scout base to detect incursions and provide support to the unit if required.



Scout training under the watchful eye of Pete Clemence



Overall, the unit remains a strong force within the Conservancy and is better equipped than it was at the beginning of the year to take on the challenges of rhino poaching warfare.

2. Maintaining and Enhancing Intelligence Gathering Network

The most significant change to our anti-poaching strategy during this period was a doubling of our intelligence budget. This year has been highly successful with **13 poachers arrested and the recovery of 4 weapons.** Two attempted poisonings were intercepted and perhaps the greatest success of all was the capturing of notorious poacher **Dumasuni Moyo** and his subsequent extradition to Botswana to face trial for numerous poaching incidents.



Apprehension of a poacher in the SVC dressed in the same colours as the scouts to cause confusion.

The anti-poaching team has demonstrated increased effectiveness due to better gathering and use of intelligence as well as a concentrated effort on follow-ups leading to prosecutions. The fact that the overall population has remained stable and the number of rhino poached has dropped demonstrates their success.

Congratulations to Bryce and his team for a great 2017.

Julie Price

Familiar Face, Fresh Format

It was a well-known guest we welcomed to our **annual gala dinner** in February when long term patron **David Gower** entertained SARF's dinner guests once again. While the face was familiar the format was fresh, as sports broadcaster **Glenn Mitchell** kindly stepped up to delve into David's mind and quiz him on current cricket issues and stories from his own cricketing career. The anecdotes and opinions flowed fluently as Glenn guided David through a range of subjects which kept listeners entertained as they dined. Our thanks go to both David and Glenn for their outstanding contribution to the evening.



The evening had started with a presentation by SARF President, **Nicholas Duncan**, outlining where funding had been contributed in the many projects that SARF assists. Once again the key project remains **Save Valley Conservancy (SVC)** to which SARF contributed more than **\$290 000** in 2017.

During his speech he also paid respect to **Esmond Bradley Martin**, a long term advocate for elephants and rhinos in Eastern Africa, who was tragically murdered in his home in Nairobi. Guests paid tribute with a minutes silence in recognition of his efforts in investigating and raising awareness of illegal wildlife trading since the 1970s.

In addition Nicholas acknowledged the support of the **Australian Government**, through the embassy in Harare and their Direct Aid Program, which contributed more than \$54 000 to the second stage of the Ranger Base on SVC.

A highlight of the evening came after Nicholas's presentation, when head of SVC anti-poaching, **Bryce Clemence**, and one of his senior rangers, **Givmore Baku**, were welcomed to the stage. This was Givmore's first trip to Australia and the first time he had seen the ocean. His description of the view of the Southern Ocean from the aeroplane as looking like the skin of elephant demonstrated his affinity for and connection to the wildlife he works so hard to protect. Bryce and Givmore gave

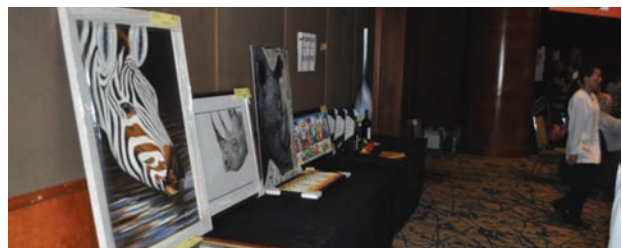
everyone an insight to the impact that SARF funding makes on the ground and the difference, in human terms, with regard the working conditions for those fighting the battle to save the rhino species.



As usual the evening featured a wonderful auction of superb memorabilia kindly auctioned by **Tiny Holly** who has stepped in to help out for a number of years with his entertaining and witty auctioneering style. Auction items included two superb jewellery pieces, two safaris, many items of signed sporting memorabilia, some highly collectible, signed guitars and holidays to the south west.



In addition to the main auction a silent auction of art, African artefacts and donated items kept diners busy upping their bids throughout the night. There was no shortage of great items and our thanks to everyone who contributed to and participated in this.





As usual it was a late finish following a fast paced schedule. Our thanks in particular go to Nicholas for his usual enthusiasm and organisation and his personal financial contribution to the evening. Also to the committee for their assistance with particular mention of **Evan Litis** and **Evelyn Wong**. Finally a thank you to the **Hyatt** for hosting another wonderful event but most importantly to our main sponsor for the night, **Travel Directors, experts in group tours to all corners of the world, plus corporate and retail travel products**. You've nothing to lose by giving **Nia** a call on **9242 4200** when it's next time to make a travel booking. We encourage our members to support our sponsors as best they can and everyone travels these days.



To make the evening flow we were very lucky to have the most generous support of **Carol and Feathered Nest Wines** with their delicious range of reds and whites.

Gage Roads beers were also very supportive and supplied **Atomic Pale Ale and Narrow Neck** from their boutique range – thanks guys.

As always, **Picasso Print & Design** produced our colour catalogue for all guests, as well as our other printing work through the year, so thanks **Gemma, Cobey** and **Iain** for your ongoing kindness to us.

Doris Brinkhaus donated some lovely jewellery pieces which all have nice new homes to go to, thanks Doris, and **Primewest** donated some holiday packages in the south west, thanks **Jim**.

The biggest funds of the evening came from the two lovely safaris that were so kindly donated by **The Hide**,

The Victoria Falls Hotel, Sango Ranch, Ivory Lodge, Amalinda Camp, Malilangwe Conservancy, Victoria Falls Safari Club and Linyati Bush Camp. To all these suppliers we extend a very big thank you and what lovely properties you have that we can visit to see all your superb wild animals.

Our grateful thanks goes to Alex, Kay, Bob, Paul, Domenic and Jim who were our biggest supporters on the night.

The end result – more than **\$130,000** raised – which will be vital in continuing the valuable work that SARF assists to conserve the rhino population of Zimbabwe and surrounds. Our thanks to all our supporters who made the evening such a memorable one and we hope to see you at our next function or maybe even on one of our safaris or Ranger Support Scheme trips.



Here are some interesting items that are still available to buy:

- Item 1; Signed and framed 2013/14 Ashes Series, both teams, Australia won 5-0. Reserve \$1,500
- Item 2; Signed bat by 24 greats of Ashes cricket, Benaud, Morris, Harvey, Simpson, Border, Thomson, Chappell, Healy.
- Item 3; Signed and framed 2016 Wallabies jumper, Rugby Championship squad. Reserve \$1,000
- Item 4; 4 day retreat for 4, at luxurious Injidup Spa Resort, value \$3,600, subject to availability. Reserve \$2,400
- Item 5; Fully signed England World Cup winners 1966. Reserve \$3,000
- Item 6; Signed and framed Australia and England teams, Ashes 1946/47, Bradman, Hassett, Hutton, Compton, Lindwall.
- Item 7; Signed and framed card of 20 Test 200s, Bradman, Waugh, Chappell, Langer, Gilly, Clarke, Smith. Reserve \$1,000

First Aid Training Update

A message from Tim

It's 0600, Sunday 8 April, sitting with a cup of coffee, beautiful sunrise at **Imire Game Ranch** and monkeys stealing the sugar at every opportunity! A new year in Zimbabwe and 3,000km covered so far, halfway through the trip.

I was kindly met by **Patrick Williamson** and Doris the delica at Vic Falls Airport. My faithful companion has taken me to The Wallow in VF, Sinamatella, Main Camp, The Hide in Hwange and to the Painted Dogs just outside the Park.

Paul and Stephanie De Montille attended the PDC Class and luckily I was able to accompany them for a day/night to a snared buffalo in the far SE of the Park, a task they have to perform, for many different animals, far too often – stuck in mud, punctures and missing equipment from National Parks resulted in a long but successful operation amongst a herd of 150 + buffalo – early the following morning, returning to Main Camp for a first aid class, we passed, paused and wondered at 5 lion cubs sitting, waiting for their mum to return. I dropped off some supplies to them as well.



On to Bulawayo, staying once again with **Verity** and her great team at Dambari, I conducted courses at Ethandwini Childrens' Orphanage and Matopos/Maleme Dam, staying with **Lucien** at this beautiful haven for children (very little to teenage).

And then on to Masvingo/ Lake Kyle and taught Masvingo Chicks and National Parks, with some eager kids and mums attending. I had a lovely stay with **Helen and Ant** again, close to Kyle. I caught up with our very first Toyota landcruiser, Waltzing Matilda, donated back in 1992!



Easter was approaching and it was time for **Save Valley** with **Bryce, Lara and Bethany** and their mighty band of hardworking guys/gals –camping, training and organizing of their medical gear was completed, **Simon and Emmson** scrubbed Doris, soggy carpets and all – we then trundled on to Sanuko to visit **Shannon, Sonia, Mr Manners** and the southern team.





A little bit of refresher training was given then it was down to Gonarezhou/Malilangwe to see **Mike/Sarah** and family, together with **Callum and Krystina**, doing a grand job, training the rangers for **Hugo** and his crew, for the forthcoming new rhino sanctuary...

A long drive back towards Harare finds me here again with our old/young friends at Imire and 2 courses, the first one to be attended by mum and babe and youngsters!

Chivero, Twala, Kariba, Marongora, maybe Mana Pools, all in the north, are to follow over the next ten days and then it's back to Harare and Perth for Anzac Day (this had to be cancelled as per footnote below).

Once again, how lucky am I to get to see this beautiful place, with the never ending smiles of a proud, patient people, coupled with animals that are beyond expectation.

A palpable optimism for a rosy future is very noticeable and may Zimbabwe start to return to its former, productive glory very soon.

Just on the side, in his 31st year of leading SARF, the love and respect for **Nicholas Duncan** in this country is immense and I think he should form a Party for the coming election! Good on you chum and "Thanks Again".

Thanks to **Jim Kidd Sports** for the soccer/rugby balls, to **Time Critical (Fleur, Art and Joan)** for letting me use their Course, **St John Ambulance/West Australian**

Ambulance Service troops who save medical gear for me to bring/send here, and once again, as always, to the lovely people of Zimbabwe for making me so welcome – God Bless you all.

And well done to Delectable Doris, a mighty tower of strength for getting me all over the place! Come visit, you Australians.

Love from Tim and Doris.

Tim Scarrott pays his expenses to visit Zimbabwe for five weeks each year, this being his fifth. He is an experienced paramedic and conducts free first aid/resuscitation course for rangers and their families. He'll have helped 293 people on this trip! It's an outstanding contribution to humanity and we're very proud to assist with the delica. Sadly, Tim had to cut his trip short by 10 days and return to Perth to spend 24 hours with his ailing father in law who then passed away. Special thoughts go to Kate and Tim.

Nature Needs More: The Evolution of Breaking The Brand

When I started the **Breaking The Brand** campaign, it wasn't my intention to create a new charity. Inspired by the 'Power of One', knowing what Nicholas has achieved in SARF (with the support of the committee and sub-committee) over the last 30 years and with Edmund Burke's quote "**The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.**" ringing in my ears, I considered the contribution I could make to an issue I care passionately about. This has culminated in the launch of Nature Needs More. The Breaking The Brand campaigns are now one pillar of an overall strategy designed to tackle the international wildlife trade; for both illegal and legal wildlife products.

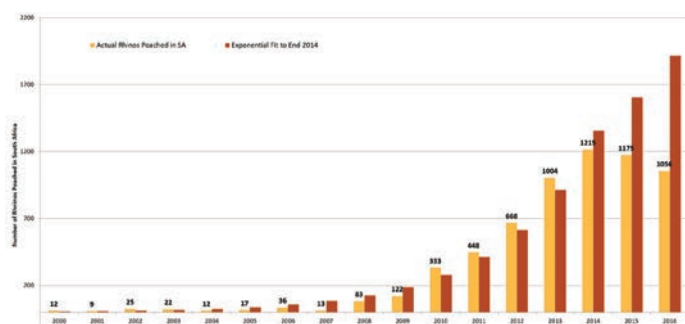
Demand Reduction Campaigns

Breaking The Brand's largest RhiNo demand reduction campaign to-date **Think: Is rhino horn putting your reputation at risk?** ran for near 7 months up to March 2018.



As previously, **full-page adverts** were published in key business and lifestyle magazines read by our target group. The adverts continued to undermine the brand and reputation of the men who need to 'prop up' their business dealings with the gift of rhino horn; reminding them of their mediocrity with the aim to trigger status anxiety.

Our hope is that these campaigns, together with the activities in range countries, have made a contribution to the downturn in the desire for rhino horn and arrested the exponential growth in rhino poaching numbers. While poaching levels are still high, in 2014 it was looking like it could have been a lot worse.



There is now both anecdotal and quantitative evidence from Viet Nam that demand for rhino horn is no longer growing and may even be falling, which is great news for the rhino.

Our next RhiNo Campaign: **True success is what you leave to the world** is underway, using a different message to not just reduce demand, but to redirect desire.



Redirecting desire is the final step in the demand reduction process. For this campaign we are collaborating with a Canberra based artist Nayana. The research for this campaign and more information about **Nayana** can be found via: <https://natureneedsmore.org/the-men-who-could-save-the-rhino/>

In the main, we cannot re-direct these users to 'legal luxury consumption', the elite users of rhino horn would see that as a backward step. With this research and work, we are not aiming to get users to care and empathise with rhinos (or wildlife more broadly), our aim is to find ways for these buyers to **gain their status by contributing to the natural world, and not consuming it.** We must accept that these new ways to engage with nature may be driven by a wide range of personal values and needs.

In the first instance, we are using artwork of the international business and political celebrities, who the rhino horn users in Viet Nam told me they follow. These elite businessmen and politicians defer their status to the rhino they are portrayed with; companions, side-by-side, in the image.

Our longer-term strategy is to embed the rejection of wildlife consumption in the sustainable and ethical fashion movement. One key learning of the last 5 years has been that **conservation has no status with the users of (luxury) wildlife products in South East Asia or China.** We need demand reduction and redirecting desire to be embedded in an industry that can reach the users and has their attention. The ethical and sustainable fashion movement as part of the (luxury) fashion industry has both the status and influence on the users that we need to crack large markets such as China.

There is much more I could write about, in relation to all the pillars in the overall Nature Needs More strategy, from how to challenge the desire to supply to how to create alternatives to the over-generalised 'sustainable use' model. For those who would like more background on the evolution of Breaking The Brand to Nature Needs More it can be found at: <https://natureneedsmore.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Third-Annual-Report-2017.pdf>

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Nicholas, the SARF committee and sub-committee (that I have the privilege to be a member of) for all their encouragement and support. I look forward to our continued collaboration as we work to turn around the fortunes of the magnificent rhino and see it flourishing in its African and Asian homelands once again.

Lynn Johnson, Founder, Nature Needs More
(www.natureneedsmore.org)



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*The Save African Rhino Foundation is indebted to Picasso Print & Design
for their continued support with the production of our Newsletters.*

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