

Painted Dog Conservation Inc

ABN: 30 268 127 580 | Registered in Western Australia | PO Box 637, South Perth WA 6951

Chairman – John Lemon | Vice Chairman/Secretary – Angela Lemon | Treasurer – Carol Shannon

Patrons: Tony Park, Bradley Trevor Greive, Simon Reeve, Nathan Ferlazzo, Fuz Caforio,
Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dane Haylett-Petty.



From the Chairman

People participate at the end of the year in two important mental sports. One is looking back over the past 12 months; the events, trying to remember details, the advancements, or a loss. Then, there is the expectations of the coming year; hopes, desires, and dreams.

Dwelling on the past is not necessarily the greatest way to find meaning in life.

“When will this pandemic end?” is a question we heard with increasing frequency last year and now into 2021. In the final weeks of 2020, it seemed the world was closer to getting an answer, as vaccines began to slowly roll out across the world, offering hope for an end to a pandemic that’s devastated lives and livelihoods around the world.

The COVID-19 outbreak is one of many events that have made 2020 a year like no other. From the ensuing public health crisis—and its toll on diverse communities, mental health, and small businesses, to name just a few—to the increasing urgency of climate change, to a watershed movement in racial and social justice, the year has brought more change than many could have imagined.

It can be hard to feel optimistic when there are still so many challenges ahead. But in a year of unprecedented change, we also feel hopeful, having seen time and time again the power of people to help each other through this crisis, sometimes against all odds.

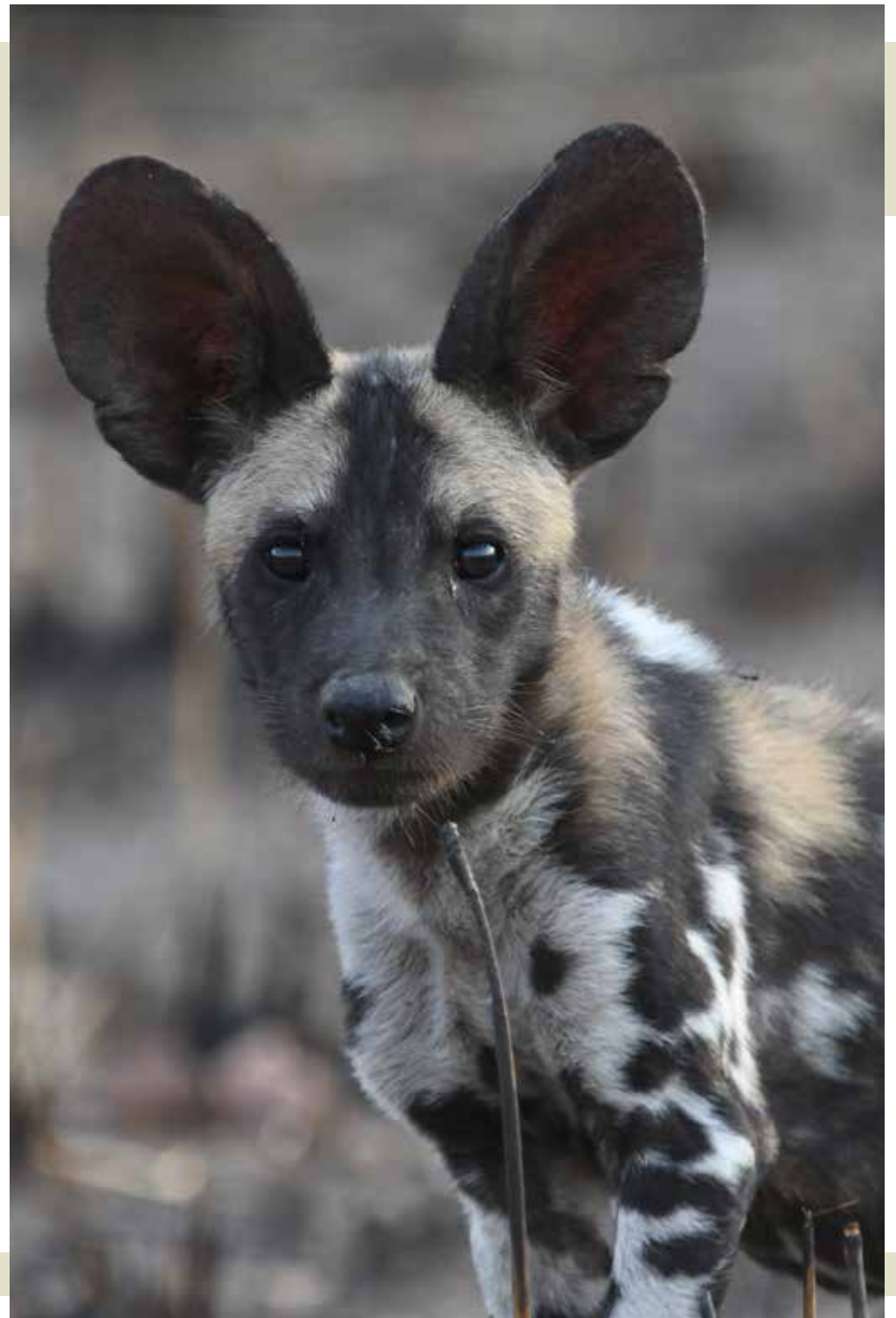
Australia’s charitable sector has been hit hard by COVID-19. At a time where charities and social services are being relied upon more than ever, the economic downturn has caused Australians to tighten their purse strings, putting unprecedented financial stress on the sector.

We were blessed by having had a bumper 2019-2020 financial year thanks to our amazing supporters. We are hoping to resurrect some of our cancelled fundraising activities and claw back much need funding for the current financial year as our requirements in the field are ever increasing.

Having utilised online fundraising (which has been well received) we cannot wait to see you all again in person at an event when the situation allows. As well, I look forward to being back in the field doing what we do.

Here is to a Happy New Year and a return to normality!

John Lemon
PDC Inc Chairman



Land Rover Perenties Bound for Zambia

In recent years, PDC Inc. has purchased and shipped essential field vehicles to Zambia, which have been the result of our successful fundraising campaigns in Australia. Our supported project, *Zambian Carnivore Programme*, has previously received four vehicles shipped from Perth, Western Australia, to Walvis Bay in Namibia, then driven overland to Zambia.

Beyond a doubt, the outstanding vehicles have been the ex-Australian Army Land Rover Perenties, which comprised two of their fleet. They are unstoppable, go everywhere and are unbreakable, which are of course essential elements for field vehicles.

Without reliable field vehicles, then our projects cannot protect and save our beloved Painted Dogs and other wildlife.

In December 2019, an opportunity arose to purchase another Land Rover Perentie in Perth, and so the planning and logistics began to send another vehicle, inside a shipping container, from Perth to Zambia.

In January 2020, another suitable vehicle came on the market, so it was decided to also purchase this additional Perentie and send two together.

And so the job began for our chairman, John Lemon, who organised, co-ordinated and managed the whole process, which also included him repainting both vehicles (as the original camouflage paintwork is not allowed in Zambia), ensuring everything is mechanically sound, and also sourcing and packing the vehicles full of donated goods.

This included medical supplies, educational materials, clothing, vehicle spares and essential tools and anything else we could source.

By March 2020, the vehicles were ready to be shipped for their long journey to the African bush in Zambia. They finally made it in September 2020!

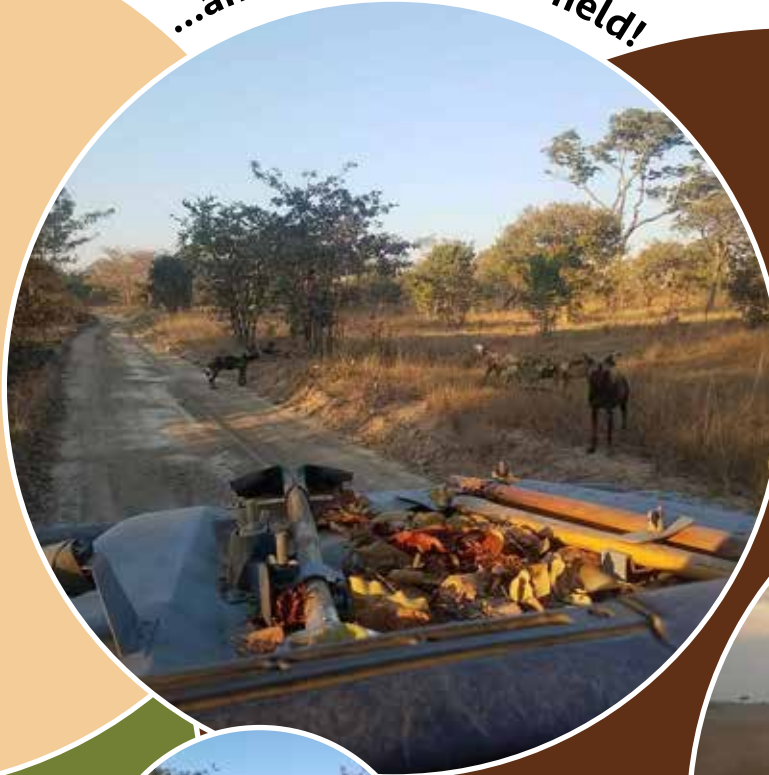


Land Rover Perenties **Bound for Zambia**

Perentie going to Fremantle Port...



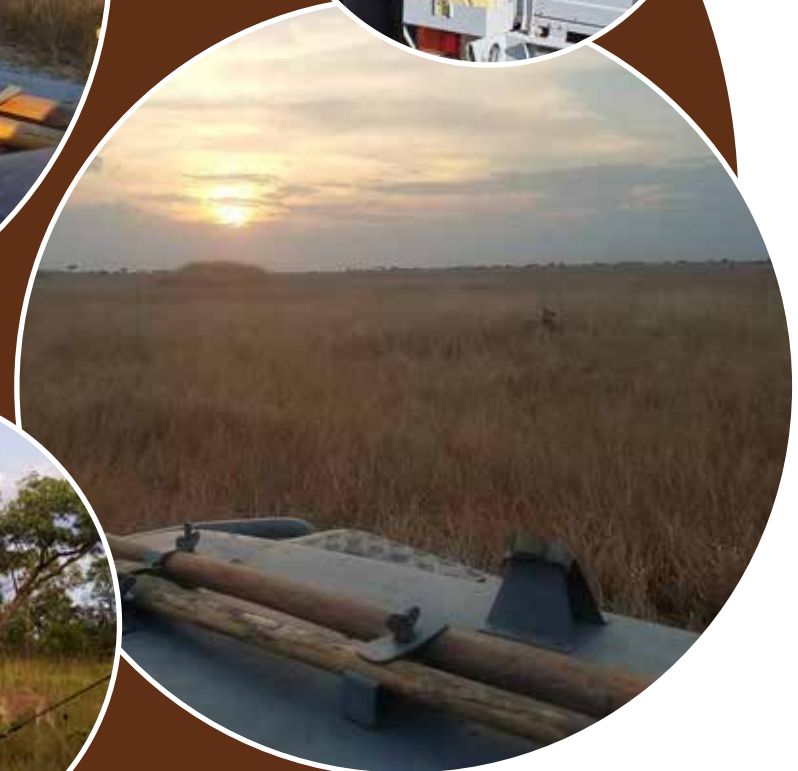
...and going into the field!



...loaded into the shipping container...



...before landing in Lusaka, Zambia...



Update: Zambian Carnivore Programme

There is a lot to be grateful for as we near the end of a very challenging year. Even in the context of all the challenges we face in conservation, this one stood out!

We started 2020 with an ambitious set of objectives for our work that were suddenly derailed in March, forcing us to hunker down and focus on just making it through the year as best we could.

It would be an understatement to say with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that we were concerned, and as the pandemic approached we prepared for the whole array of possible scenarios, with our top two priorities being:

1. to keep everyone on the team healthy, unexposed to COVID-19, employed and supporting their families
2. to minimize loss of our study animals to snares and avoid undoing the many years of progress we had made in protecting them.

We are happy to report that overall we accomplished both objectives; we kept everyone healthy, employed full-time and overall lost very few carnivores to snares despite a significant upswing in snaring in many areas across our study sites.

We are not sure what next year will bring but are making preparations and grateful for what we have, particularly in light of all the suffering ongoing worldwide.

And something we have a lot to be grateful for is PDC Inc.

As with every year, this work would not have been possible without the continuing support of PDC Inc. In collaboration with the DNPW and an array of partners our work is conducted year-round across the country in some of the last great African wilderness areas.

Collectively we log approximately 3,000 person days and hundreds of vehicle days monitoring nearly 1,000 individual carnivores of 5 species across approximately 30,000 km².

While the imperiled carnivores and our work to conserve them rightfully takes most of the attention on our work, we never forget that we depend utterly on the rugged Land Rovers in which we conduct nearly all our work.



Zambia is a tough place for field vehicles too—it's pretty much got all the ingredients you would not want to subject your vehicle to. Thick vegetation, rugged topography, cotton soil, mopane stumps, 4-5 months of rain and mud, a road network frequently necessitating offroad trips of over 30km one-way, the list goes on. Getting and maintaining a good field vehicle is no small task, and given it's one of those things you might not appreciate until a vehicle's down, it's not an easy thing to find funding for.

Fortunately, PDC Inc. has both worked in the African bush and regularly visited our projects, and so fully understands and appreciates the importance of field vehicles. So, for this update we would like to highlight some of the 'unsung heroes' of our work that we are very grateful to PDC Inc. for making possible.



Top left: One of the new Perenties from PDC Inc (L) assists in the successful de-snaring of a wild dog in the Luangwa (J. Merkle).

Bottom left: ZCP Luangwa's Magret Mwale and Reuben Kabungo affix a satellite-GPS collar to a wild dog, enabled by the PDC Inc Perentie in the background.

Above: Our PDC Inc. donated Perentie approaches an immobilized cow elephant and calf to remove a snare from the calf.

Christmas Comes Early in the Luangwa

In the midst of a year full of uncertainty and apprehension, one bright spot was the arrival of two kitted-out Perenties donated by PDC Inc., along with the usual assortment of clothing, vet supplies and all manner of useful items for our teams.

Particularly in the Luangwa we were struggling to maintain some of our field vehicles that were already quite old and had put in over a decade of hard labour in the Valley.

While it was undoubtedly the longest most difficult vehicle transport ever (which is saying something!), and included months of delay at port in Namibia, in the late dry season the Perenties made their entrance into the Luangwa.

Our field teams relied heavily on them at the height of our work and they joined another Perentie donated by PDC Inc. in 2016 to make a very strong fleet. And it was just in time, as we were able to successfully mitigate the impacts to carnivores from an increase in snaring.

Shortly after the arrival of the vehicles we successfully de-snared a dog from the Luamfwa Pack, one of the highest risk packs that resides outside the park, and the vehicles were instrumental in de-snarings of elephant and giraffe in addition to monitoring several hundred wild dogs and lions across our study area.

These vehicles are extraordinarily well-suited for our work and we look forward to many years of work in these Perenties.

PDC Inc. Support in Kafue Helps Us Reach Decade Mark

The 2020 season was a great success despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, as we successfully completed our tenth year in Kafue, making all three long-term projects in the Luangwa Valley, Greater Kafue, and Greater Liuwa over a decade old each.

A key reason for this was the field vehicles provided by PDC Inc over the year. Half of our four-vehicle fleet is thanks to PDC Inc and is comprised of another Perentie and a 300TDI Land Rover.

The season saw an ever-increasing study area with ever-increasing demands on the vehicles, but fortunately the team and our amazing ZCP Kafue mechanic Vedy Simbala kept the teams in the field and the vehicles on 'the road.'

PDC Inc. Support in Liuwa Keeps on Running

Our collaborative work in Liuwa saw another successful and productive year in 2020, and as with the other sites PDC Inc. support was key for this work. In 2011 we had a crisis with a shortage of bikes in Liuwa, and PDC Inc. came



to the rescue with the emergency funding of a Yamaha AG200 bike, which helped salvage the season.

Amazingly, this bike is still going, having clocked 30,000 km of sand driving across Liuwa!

Admittedly, it's not as pretty as it once was when fresh out of the box, but it's still going and doing valuable conservation work for us!



Left: Right to Left: CSL-ZCP Vet Dr. Mwamba Sichande treats a snared wild dog with the assistance of DNPW officer Gibson Banda and ZCP Field Ecologist Benny Beza.

Top: Kafue land rovers donated by PDC Inc have enabled ZCP-DNPW teams to successfully conduct carnivore conservation work across an increasing large area.

Above: Liuwa mechanic Eugene Silumesii services a PDC Inc donated bike (note the collector's item old logo!) Right: Our PDC Inc. donated Perentie approaches an immobilized cow elephant and calf to remove a snare from the calf.

Update: Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust

It's been an extraordinary and challenging year for so many organisations around the world. For Chipembele in South Luangwa, Zambia, it meant we had to seriously tighten belts and pull up braces due to reduced funding, but we remained resilient and kept ourselves as busy as ever.

In early 2020 when COVID-19 launched itself on the world stage, Zambia responded by closing schools and restricting public gatherings. We immediately followed suit and suspended all our school and community programs.

This gave us more time for in-house staff training and extensive lesson planning. It also gave us plenty of breathing space to become more creative in how we kept the conservation message going.

One of the most successful programs of 2020 was Conservation Hour: an hour-long local radio programme that was broadcast live each week. We partnered with Conservation South Luangwa and the Zambian Carnivore Programme to broadcast weekly conservation sessions on important issues, and representatives from each organisation engaged in phone-ins with people in the community.

After a few months Government restrictions eased and we were able to resume some community conservation education programs, while adhering to all Government advice on social distancing and hand-washing.

We continued running our new year-long youth training program called Mentors at Chipembele (MAC). At the beginning of the year we selected eight exceptional students who had been through the Chipembele conservation program and who had recently completed school, for life skill development and support in their pursuit of careers or further education in the field of conservation.

We are very proud that four of the MAC have started university and are all studying conservation related degrees or diplomas.

Schools opened again in early September after a five-month suspension and we hit the ground running with all our well prepared lessons and innovative activities.

After the long break the students were extra keen to attend our Conservation Clubs again and we were able to take some of them on field trips into the national park which always excites and engages them.



The Chipembele Conservation Centre reopened with all-day sessions on lions and lion conservation, a subject that is particularly significant this year as there have been a number of goats and pigs killed by lions, and tragically a few people too.

The animal rehabilitation program has been unusually busy this year which has kept Steve and Anna on their toes, especially with all the milk feeds. They took in and cared for two baby baboons, a bushbuck, three dwarf bitterns, six baby monkeys, a squirrel, three genets and two bushpigs.

In addition, they took in an adult female baboon who had been chained up in a backyard for six years and a juvenile monkey with a serious head injury after being struck by a car.

Our programs have continued in spite of COVID, but have only been possible with the kind support of our donors. We are particularly grateful for the long-term support of PDC Inc, who for many years has generously supported our Conservation Education Outreach Programme.

A huge thanks to Ange and John for continuing to believe in the positive impact of our conservation education programs in South Luangwa.



Top left: Bristle and Brush, orphaned bush pigs.

Top right: Conservation Education Manager Corey Jeal with four of the MAC who found sponsorship to attend university to study conservation-related subjects.

Bottom right: Students learning about Lions at Chipembele.

Update: Conservation South Luangwa

Despite the unexpected pandemic with the COVID-19 virus, which severely decreased tourism with far-reaching economic effects, we successfully completed most of our conservation work in South Luangwa in 2020.

We were unable to conduct refresher scouts training, international K9 training or our annual fun run but everything else remained on track. This is largely due to funding from donors including PDC Inc who continue to offer support even during times of financial uncertainty. We are forever indebted and are extremely grateful.

Over the past two years CSL has altered its support in South Luangwa from typically supporting only CSL-led activities to a broader level of support to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW).

This has ranged from recruit and in-service training, combining command and control rooms to one joint unit, logistical and technical support, rations, uniforms, equipment and incentives to the whole of the South Luangwa Unit.

This massive upturn in conservation investment has strengthened our partnership with DNPW and the Zambian Government. Ultimately this has translated into better coordinated anti-poaching, less dysfunction amongst management and better use of resources including man power, resulting in an overall reduction in poaching.

In a year when all of our conservation efforts had the potential to become undone, we have been able to keep all of our programs running and in fact increase our level of support. To our surprise, overall wildlife poaching did not significantly increase in 2020.

This is possibly due to a more holistic approach including much more community support in 2020. Despite 2020 being largely successful we are mindful that 2021 will be a challenging year for both wildlife and communities.

Our PDC Inc supported anti-snaring teams contributed significantly to the following overall effort and results in 2020.



Left top: Long field patrol team with rations ready 2020.

Left middle: CSL anti-snaring patrol 2020.

Left bottom: Roping a giraffe for safety reasons during an immobilization for snare

Above: Snared Painted dog immobilised with partners from the Zambian Carnivore Program and now recovering well.

2020 Results!

- 512 anti-snaring day patrols
- 353 anti-poaching long patrols
- 61 short patrols
- 650 snares removed from the bush
- 85 illegal firearms confiscated
- 165 suspects apprehended

In addition to anti-snaring patrols, joint CSL/ZCP vet and rescue teams rescued these animals from snares:

- 4 x giraffes
- 5 x elephant
- 3 x puku
- 1 x waterbuck
- 2 x buffalo
- 1 x Painted dog

Update: Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness

Dispersal Dogs Attempting to Establish on Shinganda

It was with great excitement that Shinganda heard from the Zambian Carnivore Programme over three months ago that African Painted Dogs from the Twin Palm Pack in Kafue National Park had dispersed towards Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness.

Due to their wide-ranging habits, Painted dogs are often exposed to human-induced threats. Our hopes that the dogs might settle in the Shinganda area were unfortunately frustrated when the one collared individual being tracked was caught and died in a snare set by poachers outside of Shinganda, about 5km to the west of our boundary, about three months after leaving the national park.

The story began around 13 September 2020, when at least two young male Painted dogs from Kafue's Twin Palm Pack dispersed from the main group and started to venture off on their own.

They struck west, out of the famous Busanga Plains, past the Lushimba Gate into the Kasonso-Busanga Game Management Area. Within four days they had moved over 85km, before they began running into cultivated fields at the edges of villages between the large regional community known as Kaoma and the Kalumwange village cluster to the north.

The boys then struck north, covering another 70+km before entering the area around the Shinganda conservancy. They spent the next few weeks exploring the region, going as far as 60km north of the Shinganda conservancy base. Their northernmost point put them approximately 110km northwest of Kafue National Park, which was only 80km south of West Lunga National Park.

For a while, the boys seemed to settle somewhat in the general vicinity of the Shinganda conservancy, seemingly favouring the areas to the south and west of the base. When ZCP teams checked them on 18 November 2020, the group was three in total: KWD-1101 (a two-year old male), his younger brother KWD-1192 (a yearling male) and surprisingly, a new, unidentified young female. With the

addition of this young lady, the boys seemed to be now forming a pack. Dr Kambwiri Banda of ZCP was even able to take a few photographs.

At the time, the news around dogs in the greater Kafue landscape to the north of the park looked generally encouraging, with a group of 20 Painted dogs being seen by Ntengu Safaris scout patrols around this time.

This group was observed approximately 25km north of Ntengu Safaris camp (right next to Lushimba Gate), in the Kasonso-Busanga GMA. That puts that pack approximately 12km outside of the northwestern corner of Kafue National Park, and only 30km east of the Shinganda base. Then, on 18 November 2020, seven other dogs were reported by Shinganda patrol teams in the conservancy and based on the account, these individuals were definitely not part of the collared dispersal group.

Despite the situation looking generally favourable for the dogs to settle at the time, both the Zambian Carnivore Programme and Shinganda, knowing the threats posed by poacher's snares in the bush, remained cautiously optimistic, with both being acutely aware that dispersers had only been recorded as moving through and utilising Shinganda on a temporary basis over the past 20 years.

This was the first time the Zambia Carnivore Programme had recorded wild dogs setting up a resident style home-range in and around Shinganda, with hopes for success rising, while keeping the threats posed to the dogs by poachers' snares at the forefront of everyone's minds.

The unfortunate reality recently struck home, when on 7 December 2020, ZCP contacted Shinganda to report that a mortality signal had been received from the satellite collar, with the collared dog no longer moving and suspected to have been potentially caught and died in a poacher's snare outside of the conservancy, at a location 5km west of the Shinganda boundary.

Due to recent heavy rainfall and logistical challenges in the area, ZCP and Shinganda were unable to immediately visit the area to retrieve the collar and confirm the cause of death of the collared dog. However, on 28 December



Top: Painted dog in miombo woodland, Shinganda. Above: Painted dog on dambo edge, Shinganda. Courtesy Dr Kambwiri Banda, ZCP

2020, Neil MacDonald undertook a foot patrol with his Shinganda Scouts to search the area, confirming what had been feared.

The remains of the collared wild dog were found, with the Shinganda team retrieving the satellite collar and removing a total of four cable snares in the immediate vicinity, verifying once again that the snares had been set by poachers outside of the conservancy area and therefore in an area not normally patrolled by the Shinganda Scout Team.

Even though there is some obvious disappointment,

Update: Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness

this incident nevertheless remains bittersweet. Most importantly, many significant conservation “firsts” were recorded, including a fully documented dispersal event into the greater Shinganda area, with the subsequent establishment of a resident range in and around the Shinganda protected area. We are indeed proud of this success, which has re-confirmed and highlighted the importance of Shinganda to African Painted dog conservation in the region.

Additionally, it serves as a stark reminder of the heavy poaching pressures on Painted dogs across the Greater Kafue Ecosystem (GKE) and calls attention to the urgency and need for increased on-ground anti-poaching patrols.

The sad reality is that Painted dogs in the GKE are not doing well, having one of the lowest densities ever recorded (<0.80 adults and yearlings per 100km^2). With prevailing poaching pressures, hard work is required to suppress poaching levels in the region to ensure the survival and persistence of Painted dogs across the GKE.

For wide-ranging species like African Painted dogs, the importance of snare-free conservation networks, with inter-linking conservation corridors, should not be underestimated. Shinganda remains a crucial conservation anchor-point in the northwestern sector of the Kafue landscape, serving to promote the long-term survival of Painted dogs within the GKE, beyond the boundaries of Kafue National Park.

Despite the setback in the loss of the collared dog, we remain hopeful that the other dispersal individuals will persist and possibly even join up with other dogs that have been observed on Shinganda in recent months.

Our resolve to ensure a safe environment on Shinganda for Painted dogs has therefore not been dampened in any way. If anything, the recent dispersal event provides confidence that combined anti-poaching efforts in the region are rendering excellent results and improving conditions for the maintenance of ecological connectivity for Painted dogs moving between Kafue National Park and Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness.

We will forge ahead, building on recent conservation successes, in partnership with our other conservation partners in the GKE, noting that much of this work would not be possible, without the generous support of PDC Inc.

A Sad Farewell to Chief Mushima

It is with great sadness that we inform PDC Inc members and our conservation colleagues of the passing of Chief Mushima Mubambe Isio Munwe, who died after a short illness on 8 August 2020. We started walking the conservation journey with Chief Mushima back in 2001, when he granted permission for the establishment of Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness (formally known as Shinganda-Lumba Conservancy) on land falling within his chiefdom.

From the beginning, the Chief showed great interest in the Shinganda project, accompanying us while walking and marking out the conservancy boundary cut-lines.

Over the next 19 years the friendship between the Chief and Neil MacDonald grew, with both individuals holding great respect for each other, often exchanging humorous banter during various encounters along the way.

All conservation jobs created by Shinganda over the years, including our Conservancy Scout anti-poaching patrol units, have gone to Kaonde people, being subjects of Chief Mushima, with employment benefits flowing back to families living in villages within the Mushima Chiefdom.

We all know that the support of traditional leadership and local communities is critical to the ongoing conservation effort within and outside of national park networks. For this reason, we are especially indebted to PDC Inc for support in enabling Shinganda to retain links with Chief Mushima and his Council over recent years.

In terms of traditional leadership, Chief Mushima has been a shining light for conservation of wildlife in Zambia, by setting aside land within his chiefdom for this purpose over the last two decades. We take this opportunity to thank the late Chief for his significant contribution to the cause of conservation of wildlife in Zambia and may his legacy live on!



Top: Initial negotiations with Chief Mushima, 2001. Above: Courtesy Visit to Chief Mushima, 2018.

In closing, we would like to share a link to a message from Zambian President Edgar Lungu, mourning the death of Chief Mushima: <https://zambiareports.com/2020/08/13/lungu-mourns-mushima-mubambe/>

For Shinganda, it is very touching that the photograph depicted in this article shows Chief Mushima proudly wearing his Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness T-shirt. This has deep meaning for us, confirming the strong bonds formed over time, and indeed making Shinganda extremely proud. May the Chief rest in peace.

Update: Endangered Wildlife Trust

In July 2019, PDC Inc entered into its newest partnership with Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa. In particular, our support includes the Waterberg Wild Dog Project and the Wild Dog range expansion project – the great work done by Cole du Plessis and his team. We met Cole a few years ago here in Perth where he met with John about possible work opportunities in Australia. Fast forward a few years and we are thrilled to support Cole's work in saving Painted dogs in South Africa.

Our support includes funding towards the building of a rehabilitation/holding facility for Painted Dogs in South Africa. Recognising the value of such a facility, based on John's experience building one in Zimbabwe, we did not hesitate to be involved. Please find below the latest news from Cole du Plessis, Coordinator of the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project.

It has been an exciting two decades for Painted Dog conservation in South Africa. Dating back to 1997, the only viable Painted Dog population was in Kruger National Park. Something needed to be done save the country's most endangered carnivore. This prompted a workshop attended by various stakeholders. One of the outcomes was to assess the suitability of potential reintroduction sites in South Africa and relocate packs to suitable areas.

The project was a success and saw a significant increase in safe space for Painted Dogs, while pack numbers, population numbers, and genetic diversity benefited from a growing population.

This accomplishment has rewarded us with opportunities and presented us with challenges. Conserving Painted Dogs is inherently difficult because they roam vast areas. During their travels, they are exposed to several human threats, including diseases transmitted by domestic dogs, snares set for bushmeat hunting, persecution from farmers in retaliation for stock losses, and vehicle and train strikes.

Mitigating these threats across a broad population takes dedication and perseverance. The availability of reserves in South Africa that are patrolled for snares and fenced off from livestock areas presented an opportunity to grow South Africa's Painted Dog population in secure, wild habitat, and to restore them to landscapes where they had been lost.

Our experience and the success of this project have opened an additional opportunity to reintroduce Painted Dogs to rewilded landscapes across southern Africa, where they have been driven to local extinction.

With the support of PDC Inc, The EWT embarked on a project to construct a state-of-the-art Painted Dog holding facility for the rehabilitation of injured dogs, a place to safely bond new packs for international reintroduction, and to support scientific inquiry towards a better understanding of Painted Dogs and their conservation needs. After carefully selecting the site, the next task was to fundraise for the project. PDC Inc. was one of the first partners we approached and what a fantastic choice that was! They loved the idea and committed wholeheartedly, bringing the project to life. When COVID-19 restrictions allowed, we started construction on the site, and as the project progressed, so did the innovative ideas. Instead of just having a holding facility to house Painted Dogs, we wanted to build an observation platform to monitor them. The dream developed further to include a mini veterinary clinic, which will help us treat Painted Dogs that require rehab. The decision was made to use recycled shipping containers for the clinic and viewing deck. Once again, we approached PDC Inc., and they immediately embraced the idea and offered support.

We are in the final stage of completion and could not be happier with the results. To ensure ultimate treatment and welfare, a large amount of thought and preparation has gone into the holding facility, which will serve as an invaluable conservation tool for years to come.

On behalf of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, we would like to thank Painted Dog Conservation Inc. for their immense support in this project. Simply put, it could not have been done without you.



Top: The facility. Middle: Vet clinic. Bottom: Cole du Plessis, Coordinator of the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project at the site.

Patron: Tony Park

There's no point in me complaining about 2020 as we all have our stories of how this year has affected us.

Of course, the year particularly bad for the tourism industry (which now includes me as an investor in Nantwich Lodge, in Hwange, Zimbabwe – <https://hideawaysafrica.com/experiences/nantwich-hwange/>).

One of the many negatives of this, apart from people losing their jobs, was that conservation bodies that rely on levies and donations from visitors missed out on valuable income.

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge, also known as Running for Rangers, was a means of addressing some of that shortfall. Teams of rangers across Africa ran a half marathon, 21.1km, on October 3 this year – many ran with 20kg packs.

To support them, I decided to run my own half marathon (minus the pack – I had enough of that when I served with the army). I decided that my effort would go in support of PDC in Zimbabwe, and Ange and John acted as the promoters and fundraisers for my little run. One positive thing I was able to do during lockdown this year was work on my fitness and I'm pleased to say I recorded a personal best for a half marathon (I've done a few over the years) of 1 hour 50 minutes.

Of far greater importance than that was that through my friends and readers I was able to bring in more than \$4000 in sponsorship.

This was matched by the Scheinberg Relief Fund, which resulted in a total amount of \$8278 being raised by my run, and the rangers at PDC at Hwange specifically receiving \$5353.

Thank you to anyone out there who sponsored me.

Like everyone, I'm hoping that this year will be a better one than 2020. I nice little omen (if you believe in such things) just the other day.

A person visiting Nantwich Lodge in Zimbabwe reported not only that our dam was filling up after good rains, but that a lone painted dog was spotted by the dam – he chased a kudu into the water and the kudu was eaten by a crocodile.

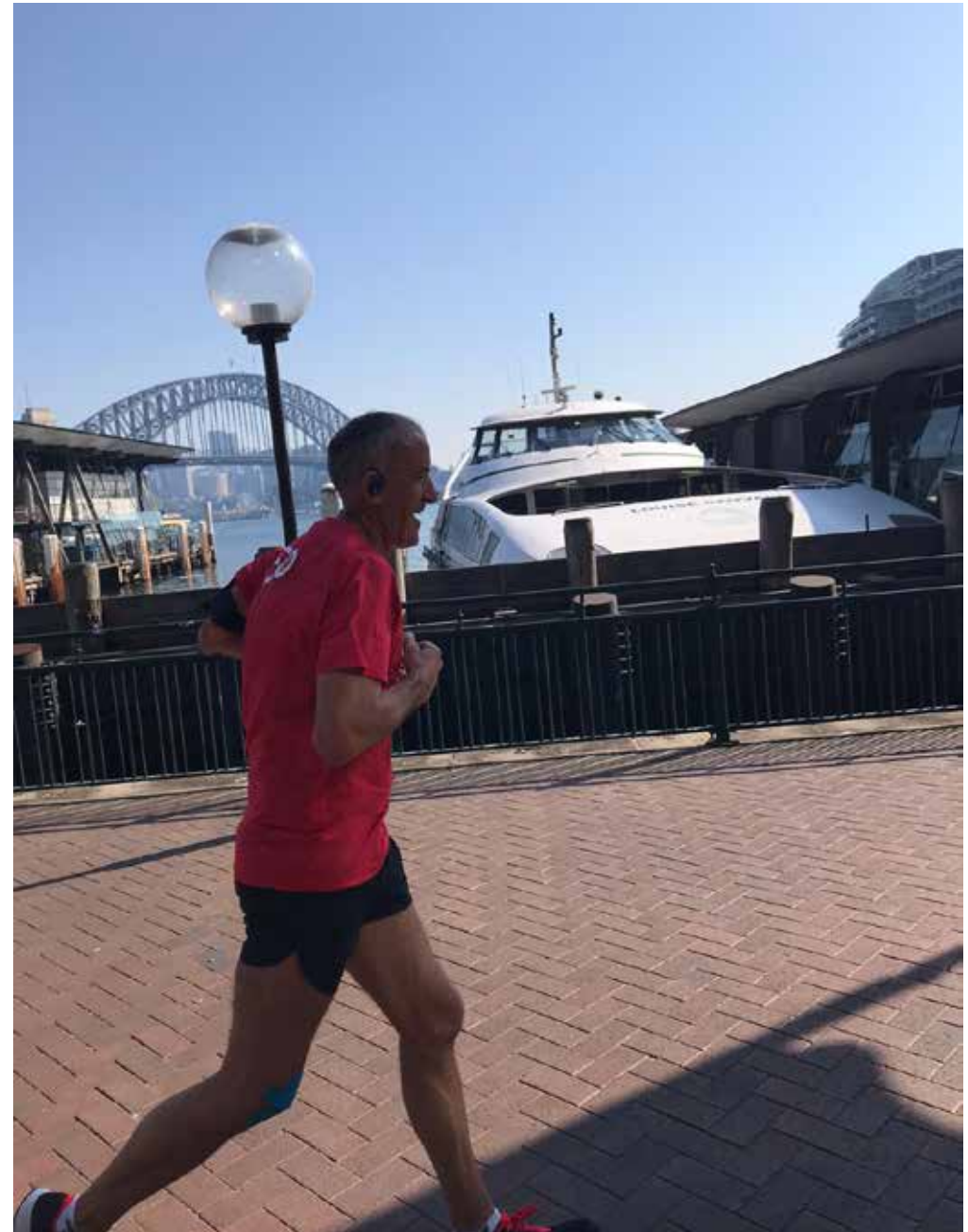
I hope that dog got another meal. I hope he had some friends nearby or finds some soon. I hope I see you all, some time, in 2021, in better circumstances.

Often, if I'm feeling down, I spare a thought for those men and women on the ground, in Africa, living rough and, in some cases, risking their lives to protect wildlife.

Their stories are inspirational, and so is the work being done by Painted Dog Conservation Inc, with your help.

Cheers

Tony



Patron: Simon Reeve

As I sit and write, it's exactly a year since doctors began reporting a rare form of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. That finding and its consequences, would change the course of life on our planet. Travel, transport, shopping, even walking out of the house, everything suddenly flipped. Regulations, lockdowns, special zones, quarantine.

The world we knew a year ago seems uncomfortably out of reach and unlikely to return.

The simple things we took for granted, the trivial things we whinged about. How I wish we could roll back the clock...and say, hop on a plane...to Africa of course, just as I did in June of 2019.

But when again?

What I wouldn't give to see a sunset over Mana Pools right now, a sunrise over the Okavango, hear a woodland kingfisher in South Luangwa.

While the story of Covid-19 is still being written, every hour, every day, with lost loved ones, new variants, insane conspiracy theories, the most plausible findings about its origins have an all too familiar theme. Human beings messing with nature. People behaving badly and through their ignorance and arrogance, we're faced with a pandemic that very smart folks warned us was coming. The fact it started in China doesn't absolve us completely of being complicit in this calamity.

No doubt there are abhorrent conditions and animal practices in the wet markets of large and small cities and towns in China and around the world, but the international wildlife trade continues to rise, even in Australia, on the potent mix of poverty, greed and politics. Only last June, a significant wildlife smuggling syndicate was busted in Sydney. That was pure greed.

Stuck at home this year, in London, New York, Paris, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, wherever we live, it didn't matter – it was inevitably fresh air, walks, the ocean, the outdoors...nature...that we longed for.

Whatever the lessons from this period in time, which may well be longer than our short attention spans can comprehend, we must understand that we are just a part of this system that sustains us.

Painted dogs will be chasing impala across African savannahs and through woodlands, with or without people to observe them. Elephants will have no problems finding ancient migration routes if this and future pandemics take humans to the edge.

So we know that without the guests in 2020, the incredible people who depend on the safari industry in Africa have struggled. From chefs to guides, trackers and craft makers, everyone is hurting. The close family ties of the Shangaan, the Ndebele, the Zulu, the Shona, the Bayei, the Maasai...mean the loss of employment for one can have a devastating ripple effect on communities. It is the African way to look after others.

We have to do whatever we can to help maintain these wild places and the people they support.



Chances are if you're reading this, like me, you'll be longing to be back there. A 5am wake up in your tent, a hot coffee, a rusk and the childlike anticipation of a morning game drive. Some day again.

The amazing teams that John and Ange support, Conservation South Luangwa and the Zambia Carnivore Programme in Mfuwe, Zambia, Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness in Zambia, Painted Dog Conservation in Zimbabwe among them, have kept their operations going through Covid best they can.

Conservation efforts don't stop because of pandemics.

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support this remarkable little organisation perched on the eastern shores of the Indian Ocean.

What John and Ange started years ago has become pivotal to the field work of anti-poaching teams, researchers, vets, dog handlers, mechanics and many more.

It's been the toughest of years, but there are still plenty of good people doing great things and that spirit has been the foundation of Painted Dog Conservation Inc from the very start.

Here's to nature, science and Painted dogs in 2021.

Simon Reeve

Patron: Bradley Trevor Greive

Greetings Painted Dog Lovers (and Closet Painted Dog Fanciers who have yet to commit to PDC Inc. membership),

For my annual Christmas message I'd like to talk briefly about two things – one very happy news item, and another that is potentially heartbreaking.

You may recall that in the annual PDC Inc. fundraising auction last year, and indeed the year before, there were a small number of signed copies of my book, *Penguin Bloom*.

Well, the happy news is that the film adaptation of this book is now complete and will premiere in Australian and New Zealand cinemas on January 21, with the rest of the world to follow on January 27, primarily via Netflix streaming services (more about that later).

I'm not going to lie, I'm quite puffed up about this movie for both personal and professional reasons. I immodestly believe it's the most beautiful film to come out of Australia in a very, very long time.

Our movie stars two-time Academy Award nominee, Naomi Watts, Andrew Lincoln (from *Love Actually* and *The Walking Dead*), Rachel House (from *Whale Rider* and *The Avengers*), and Aussie acting legend, Jacki Weaver. If you enjoyed the book then I know you'll enjoy the film even more. You will laugh, you will cry, and you will probably cry again, but you'll still walk out of the cinema with a big smile on your face. I promise.

To watch the movie trailer online, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMq_OKEqIZs

The potentially heartbreaking news I have to share is about the impact of the COVID pandemic on wildlife and wildlife conservation around the world.

As you know, the COVID related lockdowns in Australia and New Zealand were harsh but, by and large, very effective. During these windows, many businesses suffered, as did families and individuals.

Many people are still trying to get back on their feet, and it will take more than a scorching summer to get life back to normal.



However, as difficult as it has been Down Under, sadly, the rest of the world has had it a lot tougher. The reason Australia and New Zealand get to watch *Penguin Bloom* in a movie theatre, as it was intended, and not on a streaming service (like the rest of the world) is that Aussies and Kiwis have largely won their respective battles against COVID.

I'm writing this message from California, and it's devastating to tell you that at least 3,000 men, women and children will die from this virus in America today. And



3,000 more the day after. And another 3,000 the day after that. And so on.

To make matters worse, we are expecting another, even higher surge in critical cases after Christmas Day, because the disease is so widespread and, shockingly, many people simply refuse to stay home and take protective measures and keep themselves and their family, friends and loved ones safe.

It is predicted that the USA National COVID Death Toll will race past 400,000 well before the vaccine has

Patron: Bradley Trevor Greive

been delivered to everybody. Suffice it to say, it's going to be a very difficult winter and spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

But while the human cost is terrible, at least it is well known, and every government on the planet is taking what steps they can to fight the disease and support affected businesses, as well as people who have lost their jobs and are struggling to get by.

The same however cannot be said for the impact on wildlife and wildlife conservation. Let me give you a few examples of three new challenges we now face as we struggle to save species from extinction:

1. Access Denied.

To curb the spread of the COVID Pandemic, many state and national borders have been closed, and rightfully so. However this means that key people and often vital supplies cannot be safely delivered to the places they are needed most, and therefore local teams have to make do with what and who they have on the ground.

In one case this has meant that the staff from GRACE (Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center) in the Congo, have been staying with their gorillas and have been completely isolated from their own homes and families for almost an entire year, for fear of bring the fatal disease back to the precious Grauer's Gorilla orphans in the care.

2. Desperate People do Desperate Things

The impact of COVID-19 on the tourism and hospitality sector has been well documented. In the USA it is estimated that 85% of all restaurants will close their doors for good, meaning that millions of workers will lose their livelihood. The impact on Africa's hotels, tour operators and airlines has been even worse. Countless workers – from dishwashers and front desk staff to security guards and wildlife guides are now sitting at home, wondering where their next meal will come from. None of this is going to change until tourists return in healthy numbers ... but no one knows when that will happen.

For many families in rural areas, the only solution will be

bushmeat – what they catch this morning will be on their dining table this evening – which is why poaching is on the rise again across key wildlife habitat zones in Africa. So much of the good work that has been achieved through hard work over decades might well be undone in a matter of months as rare and threatened species, like Painted Dogs, are caught and killed in cruel wire snares.

3. Funding Drought

One of the largest benefactors of in situ wildlife conservation today are conservation zoos. Modern zoos, such as Perth Zoo and Taronga Zoo, are now the backbone of almost all critical conservation fieldwork, in terms of funding, staffing, and technical expertise. PDC Inc. is the perfect example of this. Chairman, John Lemon, was already a respected senior member of the Taronga Zoo wildlife team and an international conservation program leader when he first started PDC Inc. As PDC Inc grew, John and Vice Chairman, Angela Lemon, relocated to Perth Zoo, where they received the additional support needed to develop and grow the in situ wildlife programs that continue to make such a vital difference today.

As you know, both Perth Zoo and Taronga Zoo had to close their gates from March till June this year, due to the COVID Pandemic, along with leading zoos across the country and all around the world. In the USA, zoos that were briefly allowed to reopen have just been forced to close again. And when the zoos are empty there is zero money coming in from visitors buying tickets, but meanwhile all the animal care costs (for thousands of animals at each facility) remain exactly the same.

No one could have seen this coming, which is why even the biggest and best zoos are being pushed to the brink just to keep running with a skeleton crew. Many experienced keepers, vet staff and grounds crew members have been laid off, habitat upgrades have been postponed indefinitely, and money that would have otherwise have been invested in field conservation work is now being redirected to pay for feed, and keep the water and power turned on.

All of which means that the money flowing to staff and

volunteers undertaking critical conservation field work is rapidly drying up.

A Perfect Storm

When you combine all these three COVID Pandemic related factors what you quickly realise is that, as wildlife conservationists, we have never faced a more difficult challenge than we are facing right now: Our key personnel are restricted as where they can go, its harder to ensure supplies reach their intended destination, indiscriminate wildlife poaching is rampant again, and there is a critical shortage of funding for vital field programs.

Look, I fully realise that for many of you it is impossible to give as much as you would like this year, because you are also struggling to pay the bills as a result of business shutdowns and household shortages. But for those of you who are able to give a little more this year, I thank you for doing so. And to everyone reading this message I humbly ask each of you, at the very least, to please renew your PDC Inc. Membership and to invite a few friends to join up with you. Your membership dues, modest though they are, determine whether or not PDC Inc. can keep operating in the field, where we are most needed.

The Painted Dogs are counting on us this Christmas. And we, in turn, are counting on you. Thank you for your ongoing support, please stay safe, have a happy Christmas, and all the very best for the New Year and beyond!

Cheers,

Bradley Trevor Greive AM

Postponed 2020 Fundraising Events

Planning for our 2020 fundraising events had started in earnest for Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

By the end of January, we were excited to have organised the first three events for the year, in Perth and in Melbourne.

Sadly, we had to cancel these nights due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, here is a reminder of what we had in store for you-which we will hope to run again soon!

27 March 2020

During January 2020, John and Angela Lemon, our Chair and Vice Chairman respectively, had attended a beautiful performance by Bakers Daughter, aka Australian legend Alyce Platt!

Her voice was absolutely incredible, and soon after Alyce contacted us to see if we would be interested in her performing for us.

We thought what better way to celebrate our recent achievement of **raising \$2 million** than hosting this get together with our members and friends and kick-start 2020!

Unfortunately, the world as we knew it was about to change, and we sadly had to cancel the night we had planned at The Sewing Room here in Perth.

24 May 2020

We were excited to announce our next event for 24 May 2020, this time in Melbourne at the African-themed Glamp Bar.

We were teaming up with our patron, Nathan Ferlazzo, to host the event as we introduced our newest patron, Dane Haylett-Petty, to our followers in Melbourne.

We had previously hosted an event with Nathan in 2019 at the Glamp Bar, which is an incredible venue.

We were going to have Nathan's stunning works as auction items, and hear the passion for both Africa (and Rugby) from Dane, but sadly this event was also cancelled.



PERTH
BAKERS DAUGHTER
AKA ALYCE PLATT

Friday 27th March
The Sewing Room, Murray Street,
Perth (entrance via Wolf Lane)
Time: 7pm

 Painted Dog
Conservation
Inc.



MELBOURNE
DANE HAYLETT-PETTY
& NATHAN FERLAZZO

Thursday 14th May
GLAMP BAR
267 Little Collins Street, Melbourne
\$82.50pp
Includes Dinner & Cocktail
Start time: 7pm (arrival from 6pm)
A Night to Raise Funds for African
Frontline Conservation Projects

 Painted Dog
Conservation
Inc.

July 2020

We had planned to host our patron, Tony Park, for his annual book launch with us in Perth – his latest creation being *Last Survivor* – but again, Covid-19 prevented this event going ahead.

However, the pandemic did not stop us!

Instead, we ran an online option for fans to buy a signed copy of Tony's newest release as well as his reissued *War Dogs*.

This enabled our followers to remain connected with Tony, and for us to continue to raise funds.



LIMITED OFFER

Personally signed
copy of
"Last Survivor" by
Painted Dog
Conservation Inc
Patron **Tony Park**

Every
purchase
supports our
frontline
projects!

Cost \$35AU (includes postage)
To order: Contact PDC Inc Vice Chairman
Angela Lemon at lemonj@ozemail.com.au

Past Events: Online Auctions 2020

Despite the challenges of not having in-person fundraising events during 2020, we decided to do more online auctions to not only raise funds, but to also keep connected with our members and friends.

While we were limited in what we could do, all of our frontline projects needed to continue to function so every dollar we could raise would make a difference.

The primary role of our online auctions in 2020 helped raise funds towards the transport of the two Land Rover Perentie vehicles we purchased in Perth and shipped to Zambia to our supported project **Zambian Carnivore Programme**. In addition, an auction in October raised funds to further support the building of a veterinary clinic at the Rehabilitation Centre we funded for the **Endangered Wildlife Trust** in South Africa.

To celebrate the continued partnership with **Untamed Brewing** in South Africa, we auctioned the only two **Painted Pale Ales** in Australia! In addition, we had donated items from "Sentimenti-handmade gifts by Dawn" in the UK as well.

We then had the honour of auctioning off original drawings by long-term supporter **Liberty Shuro** from Zimbabwe, an absolutely incredible talent!

At our **Kevin Richardson** live events in November 2019, we showcased local Perth photographer **Harman Singh-Heer**. This relationship continued with us hosting the last auction for the year of 10 of his beautiful photographs.

From these three auctions, we raised over \$3000 towards the transport of the Land Rovers, and \$1800 for the Veterinary Clinic.

As always, thank you to all that participated in the auctions to make them a success.



Top: Untamed Beer auction winner Brad with John.

Above: Handmade Painted Dog by Sentimenti.



Top: Paintings by Liberty Shuro.

Above: Harman Singh Heer photos.

Bushfire Crisis Art Auction

At the end of 2019 and into 2020, Australia suffered from horrendous bushfires in the Eastern States, severely decimating our bushland and huge number of our wildlife killed during this time is almost unbearable to think about. We were only too happy to help when our patron Fuz Caforio and long-term supporter Richard Symonds approached us to assist with fundraising for our precious Australian wildlife. Both Fuz and Richard are internationally renowned artists, so we were excited to see what would unfold.

Fuz created and generously donated the stunning original piece titled *Tribute To Lewis* (bottom left), in honour of Lewis the Koala who succumbed to his horrific burn injuries.

Richard Symonds donated five limited edition prints of *Hang On* (bottom right) and also donated part proceeds of sales of these prints online and from phone covers produced with this beautiful image.

Both art initiatives resulted in an online \$10 entry in a limited draw to win these amazing pieces of art, and we were thrilled to raise over \$5000 which was donated to charities dealing with the rescue and rehabilitation of the injured wildlife from the bushfires. These included the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie, WIRES, Wildlife Victoria, SAVEM and Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park.

Thank you again to everyone for supporting this initiative which truly made a difference to our precious Australian wildlife.



Our Newest Patron

During November 2019, we had the pleasure of meeting one of Australia's sporting legends, Dane Haylett-Petty. Dane is the Captain of Rugby Union team Melbourne Rebels and has also represented Australia in The Wallabies on numerous occasions.

Dane was introduced to us via his cousin, Cole Du Plessis, whom PDC Inc supports through our partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust in South Africa. Dane and his team had made a generous contribution towards the critical work of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Apart from being passionate about rugby, Dane is also passionate about Africa and its wildlife too. From being born in South Africa, still with the love for the African bush in his veins, he and Cole have also established the African Conservations Expeditions company.

We had a great connection with Dane immediately around how we can all work together with the fantastic result of him agreeing to be one of patrons.

We are honoured to have him on board and looking forward to introducing him to you at an event in 2021.





Post Office Box 637
South Perth WA 6951
Phone: +61 8 9455 6073
Mobile: 0419 956 238

The Object of the Association is:

To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Dog, (also referred to as a Wild Dog) *Lycaon pictus*, through education promoting and disseminating research into such conservation and seeking to achieve their sustainable management.

Conservation through action and education

Find us on the web: www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au | pdmembers@iinet.net.au | www.facebook.com/PaintedDogConservationInc

Would You Like To Help?

Our supported projects do NOT receive any government funding and is wholly reliant on donations to continue its operations.

The key factor in retaining the workers from the local communities – both skilled and unskilled who are classed as staff – is to have sufficient funding available to pay them a reasonable wage.

Please consider a donation for the work to continue. All donations received are put without deduction to the benefit of the African Painted Dog.

Here's What to Do

Forward a cheque or money order (within Australia) made payable to:

Painted Dog Conservation Inc

C/- The Treasurer

Post Office Box 637

South Perth WA 6951

Credit cards (Overseas and Australia): We can accept either Visa or Mastercard.

Major Sponsors

