



From the Chairman

As 2007 draws to a close, I want to wish all members and the committee a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year, 2008.



I would like to especially thank the committee consisting, John Lemon, May Core, Dick Watson, Mark Tyler, Rosemary Markham, Jenny Preston and Peter Wood and Kathy Starr for their tireless efforts in coordinating the work that culminated in our annual general meeting and dinner auction event held in September. I would also like to mention Angela Lemon, Marnie Giroud, Rob Preston, Paul Eden and our auctioneer, Richard Holmes, who assisted us in the running of the evening. Thanks also to the very friendly and professional team of the East Fremantle Yacht Club for their advice, facilities and service on the evening.



It would be remiss of me to not mention the silent volunteers that do so much for us in the background, Margie McClelland in NSW for processing all our credit card transactions, Dean Withers from South Australia, our auditor, Daniel Scarparolo, the newsletter and Clare Williams, currently redesigning our website.



Above all, I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support and



our newest members, listed in the following pages, for joining our association.

2007 saw us provide funding to all three projects and we were honoured that Kellie Leigh, Director and founder of African Wild Dog Project, flew from Sydney to join us on the evening where she presented a talk on the AWDC's work in Zambia.

John also gave our dinner guests a first hand briefing on the Namibian project which he had recently visited and worked on during August. More in the following pages!

Notably for 2007;

- Held a members meeting and dinner at Zebra's African restaurant with 44 guests
- Contributed to the purchase of telemetry equipment, supply of computers and replacement of text books (they were flooded out) for Zambia
- Purchased telemetry, camping, navigation and photographic equipment for Namibia
- John and Angela attended with Jenny for the second year at the Riding for the Disabled annual event at Pinjarra.



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- Contributed to an independent water supply for Zimbabwe's rehabilitation facility, Children's Bush camp and new Visitors centre
- Kelmscott Primary School, awareness and fundraising for PDCInc
- Dinner and auction at the East Fremantle Yacht club raising over \$10,000
- Completion of our business plan for 2007 and presentation to members
- John Lemon has been made an Adjunct Associate of Murdoch University and is supervising Amanda Ash who is undertaking a PhD on Parasitology of Painted Dogs
- PDCInc has assisted Amanda by providing the airfare for her studies to Africa
- Committed to the purchase of 2 GPS tracking collars and software for Zimbabwe
- Committed to the purchase of 2 GPS tracking collars for use in Namibia

My own visit to Zimbabwe for twelve weeks where I was privileged to see how the project has expanded especially in their workings with the local communities via the Children's bush camp, community outreach and the many volunteers still going out to the project from all over the world, Switzerland, Brazil, Netherlands. I also saw the efforts that were made in treating dogs that had suffered from the continual snaring that is endemic in and around the National Park and the continued work of the project's funded anti poaching units. I met members on tour with SAVE Foundation and an old acquaintance in Sue Taylor who I had worked with many years ago. We all had dinner at the Waterbucks Head and Wendy's dance troupe, Ingonyama, entertained us.

Financial support from Perth Zoo and HSI has again enabled us to provide equipment to all three projects. As well, during the past year, our members have also given donations, all of which have been used to fund the above.

Monarto Zoo in South Australia has created a programme called "Planet Keeper". The programme provides opportunities for teachers and schoolchildren to learn

Photos from top to bottom:

Anti poaching unit, Ganda, with the overhauled vehicle; Children acting out the "Eyespot" play at the Children's Bush Camp; Visitor Centre opened 31 August 2007. Station 2 "Family Life"; One of the 7 canvas paintings commissioned by PDCP and done by local artist Calvin Chimutuwah.



One of the Umtchibi dogs carrying a snare. The wound is visible. After removal of the snare in the field the dog was taken to the rehabilitation centre to recover.

Photo by Luca Frigeri (Swiss volunteer)



about the painted dog.

Planetkeepers (4 schools) have raised \$1,511.45.

Emma and a group of other zoo education staff visited the project during April 2007 and spent a lot of time with Wilton Nsimango at the bush camp facility where they had a great time.

Over the next five months they worked on a project "Creating for Conservation", where they raised \$10,500.00 for the bush camp with 50 artists exhibiting and over 280 attending on the first evening.

Congratulations Team Adelaide!

At our AGM we put forward a number of changes to our rules that were approved by the attending members. A key change was the reassessment of the anniversary date which now ensures all members do receive a full twelve months of membership regardless of their join date. Another change was to our name, however, when we submitted the amendments for approval to DOCEP they disallowed our request to use the word "foundation" and cited the literal meaning of the word from the dictionary which we were unable to substantiate. Consequently we have placed on hold any future name change.

To 2008;

We extend a welcome to John Trevillian, retired veterinarian, who has joined our committee and farewell and give thanks to Rosemary Markham and May Core who have both retired from the committee.

Robin Lines, from the Namibian Wild Dog Project will be

Photos from top to bottom:
 Lioness (*Panthera leo*) at Livingi pan on the way to the National Park. There were two lionesses.
 Dogs (Umtshibi) morning hunt.
 Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), at Nyamandlovu platform, Hwange National Park.
 Plains Zebra (*Equus quagga*, formerly *Equus burchelli*), also known as the Common Zebra or the Burchell's Zebra.

visiting Australia during January and February. We are having a fundraising dinner on 16 February (please see page 10 for further details) for members and the public where he will be our guest speaker.

Bradley Trevor Greive will be doing a book launch during April in Perth. Proceeds have been offered to PDCInc. Further details will be advised.

To our membership, contact is important to us. Of late we have been receiving un-deliverable messages to our outwards emails. Most times this is because we may have misread the application form and have been unable to contact the member but also could be because the member may have switched carriers.

If you have an email address and you have not been receiving or would like to receive notices could you send an email to pdcinc@iinet.net.au and advise us please. The newsletter is only available in colour if emailed. This newsletter will also be posted out this once to all members.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our association:

Caroline Lawrence, WA, Caroline Baldwin, WA, Martin Jones, WA, Pete Chilvers, WA, Penny Chilvers, WA, Naline Rose Pirani, NSW, Alan Morgan, WA, Tiffany Jacobs, WA, Amanda Ward, WA, Jodie Kasatchkow, WA, Meredith Conroy, Northern Ireland, Alison Morris, WA, Elaine Nolte, WA, Jill Cocco, WA, Robert Preston, WA, , Samantha Blair, WA, Des Morgan, WA, Royle Godwin, WA, Sarah-Jane Bryant, WA, Josephine Williams, WA, John Dumancic, WA, Nia Carras, WA, Jenny Newman, Canada, Tom Newman, Canada, Claire Glenister, WA

Our membership now numbers 165:

Australia 150 - (WA 128, NSW 11, VIC 5, SA 3, NT 2, QLD 1)

Canada 2, France 1, India 2, Ireland 2, Scotland 1, UK 2, USA 4, Zimbabwe 1

Kelmscott Primary School Fundraising Update

As reported in the last newsletter, a Year 4/5 class at Kelmscott Primary School has been fundraising for Painted Dog Conservation following their teacher, Taneal Thompson, attending a professional development evening at Perth Zoo. The class also visited the Zoo to learn about Painted Dogs and met with John Lemon.

After returning to school, the students began raising funds for PDCInc to assist this endangered animal and the communities surrounding its home range. They are selling merchandise and have planned ways to educate others about wild dogs and PDCInc. Students were also given a classroom each to go and spread the word about wild dogs and their plight.

John made a follow-up visit to the school on 13 September with PDCInc mascot 'Picasso'. After John's presentation on his latest trip to Namibia and once again fielding a myriad of questions, the students presented John and PDCInc with the funds raised over the previous five months. It will not end there though as the students are continuing with their fundraising.

Thank you once again to Taneal Thompson and Kelmscott Primary School.

RDWA Be Active State Games 2007

PDC Inc. made their annual pilgrimage to the Riding for the Disabled Western Australia (RDWA) State Games on Saturday the 8th of September at Fairbridge Village in Pinjarra. As always, it is not only a great venue to promote awareness on the plight of the dogs but spend quality time engaging the community in fun, interactive activities to spread the word.

Vice-chairman John Lemon, Secretary Jenny Preston, Sally Preston and Angela Lemon entertained the children and adults alike with face painting and stencils while "Picasso" our mascot enjoyed mingling with the children and the cameras as well.



Fundraising BBQ at Perth Zoo

Held on 10 October and with the generosity of Dubrovnik Butchers, Coca Cola and Brumby's Bakery South Perth, Perth Zoo staff and Docents attended a fundraising bbq with all proceeds going to PDC Inc.

Organised by Perth Zoo Visitor Services trainee Mandy Waller, the bbq raised over \$350 and PDC Inc was able to purchase much needed field equipment for the project in Namibia.

Thanks Mandy for your support.



NAMIBIA 2007

by John Lemon, Vice-chairman Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

During 2007, Painted Dog Conservation Inc. spread its support for Painted Dog In-situ Conservation Projects to include two additional range states. The African Wild Dog Conservation Project in Zambia and Wild Dog Project Namibia were added to our portfolio to complement our support in Zimbabwe.

After nearly nine years of visiting Zimbabwe and working with Painted Dog Conservation, the opportunity to work for another project which we now support came to fruition. Joined by my wife for the first time in four years we set off to spend the month of July working with Robin Lines, who with the support of the Namibia Nature Foundation, runs the Wild Dog Project based in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy in the North-east corner of Namibia.

As usual, we spared a few days to spend with friends at De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre in South Africa who have not only been supportive of my field work over the years, but more so great friends and our family away from home. Thanks Alan, Anne and Family!

After fond farewells it was onto Windhoek in Namibia to begin our shopping for our field work and two day drive to Nyae Nyae Conservancy to meet up with Robin. We were presently surprised with the modern vibe and appearance of the City, plus the goods and services available after the said years in Zimbabwe.

They say never to become complacent whilst in Africa. During our final hours before heading into the bush, my wife headed off to get last minute supplies while I stood guard on our securely locked and heavy laden vehicle. Four young men approached our vehicle and began rummaging through the tray containing our food and camping supplies. As usual I was more than willing to confront them on such matters. After a few short minutes of verbal exchange only, they turned tail and were gone. Once back at the driver's door the car park guard said that another man had taken something from my car. Knowing that it was securely locked I wondered what his mix of

Afrikaans and German would really mean? The driver's door was ajar; my heart skipped a beat, followed quickly by my tongue sliding down my throat. My much loved camera bag containing around \$5000 worth of camera equipment, spending money and my Passport were gone!!

The route to the bush was quickly diverted to spend an extra two days liaising with the Australian Embassy in Pretoria via the English Embassy in Namibia to arrange emergency travel documents to allow me out of the country at the beginning of August. Our sincere thanks to Gary Leslie, Deputy High Commissioner and Sonny Beukes, Consular Assistant at the British High Commission for their help and support during what felt like a hopeless situation at the time.

Putting the dramas behind us and actioning Plan 'B' we headed off for Nyae Nyae Conservancy, a 750km drive from Windhoek.



On route we were able to catch up with long time friend and world-renowned Cheetah Conservationist Laurie Marker, Founding Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund based in Otjiwarongo (*pictured above*).

After a pleasant and inspiring day with Laurie it was onto Nyae Nyae Conservancy and Tsumkwe, 500km's away to meet with Robin.

Tsumkwe is famous for being the Home Township



and final resting place of G/AQ'O /XA'ANA #OMA the Bushman star of "The God's Must be Crazy" (pictured above centre).

After a minor issue with one final road (above right) we finally met up with Robin at his Klein Dobe base camp. Straight away it was easy to tell that he was an avid dog lover at heart and a hell of a nice guy. Robin has been operating in the local area for around four years and had spent more years prior to that in the Waterburg region. Nyae Nyae Conservancy is approximately 1 million hectares, bordered in the North by Khaudom Game Reserve which is around 380,000 hectares.

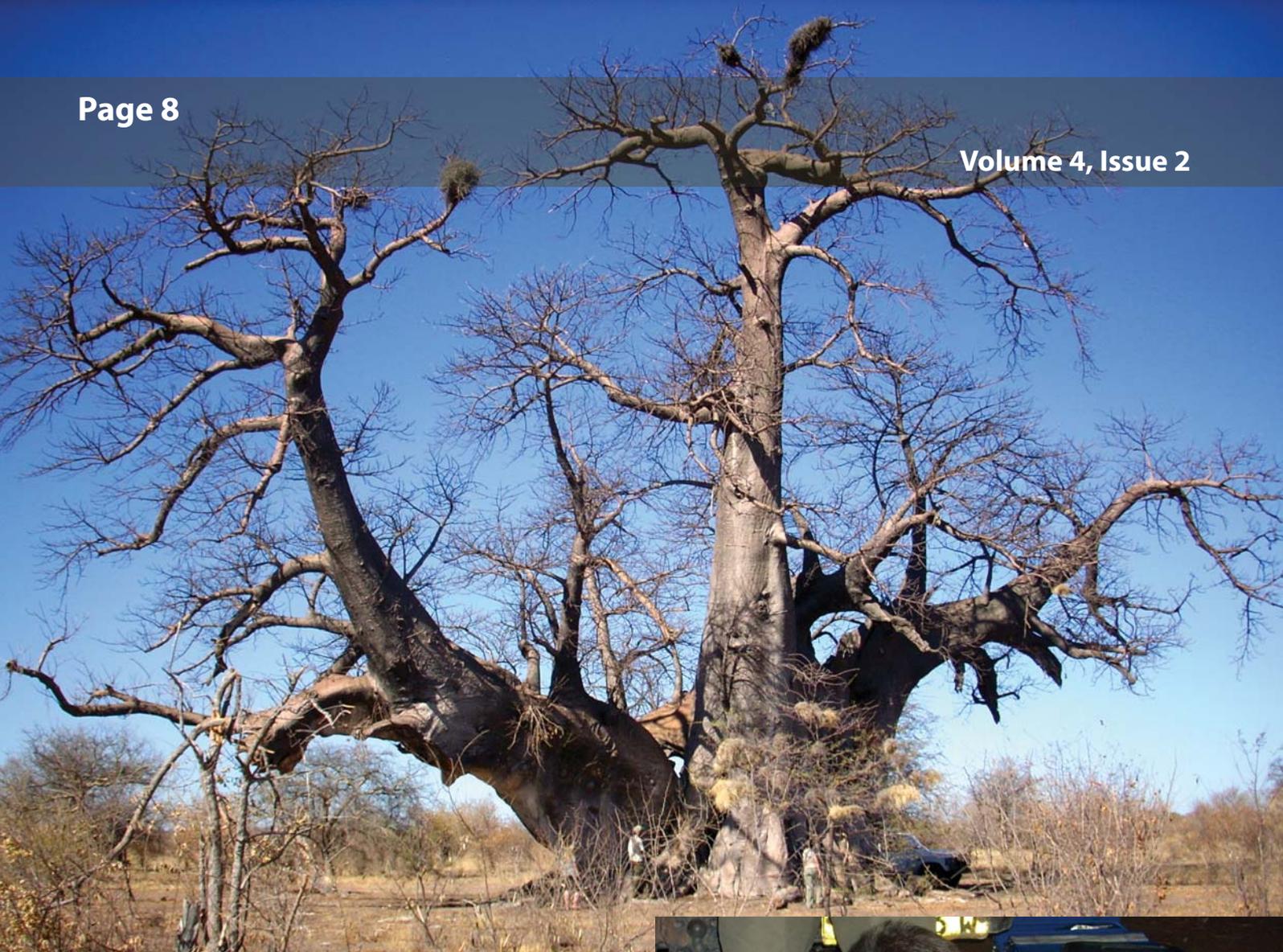
Painted Dog home ranges are often recorded between 350-750km². With the low prey density and little competition with other predators, the core population of dogs in Namibia enjoy on average a home range of 2500km². Total numbers of dogs range from 300-600 individuals in the whole of the country and 75-100 (7-10 packs) in Nyae Nyae Conservancy. Coupled with little or no road infrastructure, it is apparent you have your work cut out for yourself when tracking the dogs. Lions have not been present in the area for around 10 years but are now returning and the dominant carnivore is the Spotted Hyaena. Prey species include Eland and Kudu with predominantly Steenbok, Duiker and Hares as the main fare. With an average rainfall of 450-650mm/year falling between December and February it explains why the dogs are almost water independent feeding on water independent prey.

Robin's hard work is based around community development and educating about the value of dogs to the local community, monitoring

population trends through physical tracking and sightings and faecal collection and study of prey species consumed. Through this gathering of data it provides him with management tools to develop management policies. In summary research will lead to concrete findings which can be used to create an environment for increased dog numbers and long term existence in the area. Though the dogs are "specially" protected in Namibia, the biggest threat to the dogs in the area is persecution by livestock farmers and development of small livestock stands in the future. Hence it is crucial for his research and associated findings in curbing future expansion of domestic livestock farming over conservancy based indigenous game holdings.



Robin is also proactive in pushing for a re-introduction of dogs into Etosha National Park, Namibia's premier National Park and the only current protected area in the country large enough to hold a viable population within former range. The area is fenced and protected by anti-poaching unit patrols plus three Government-based camps. The dogs were historically present but not now. A possible utilisation of captive-bred dogs may play a crucial role. Additionally, Robin wishes to be involved in the development of Wildlife corridors between Etosha and the Coast and host a National Wild Dog Workshop later in the year to bring together all stakeholders to take the ideas



to fruition. I will be attending on behalf of Painted Dog Conservation Inc. to further our involvement in the initiative.

Our trip to assist Robin was one to remember. From meeting the San people and observing their tracking skills (*bottom right*), to sleeping under the largest Baobab Trees in Africa (*above*), enjoying Robin's culinary skills and friendship, or companionship of his domestic dog Suni, could only be topped by observing and collaring one of the Wild Dogs of Namibia (*right*).

On our first night in the field, camped only 700m from a denning pack with pups we were able to dart and collar a yearling male. The fourth dog to be collared in 10 years and the second pack to be collared in Namibia's Conservation history!! Robin currently enjoys the assistance of Voluntary Veterinarian, Ana Maria Puerta from Colombia (*next page, picture top with Ang and dog Suni*) who oversees all veterinary procedures. We were all ecstatic in the outcome.

The rest of the trip was spent collecting faeces for analysis, talking with villages on dog sightings and

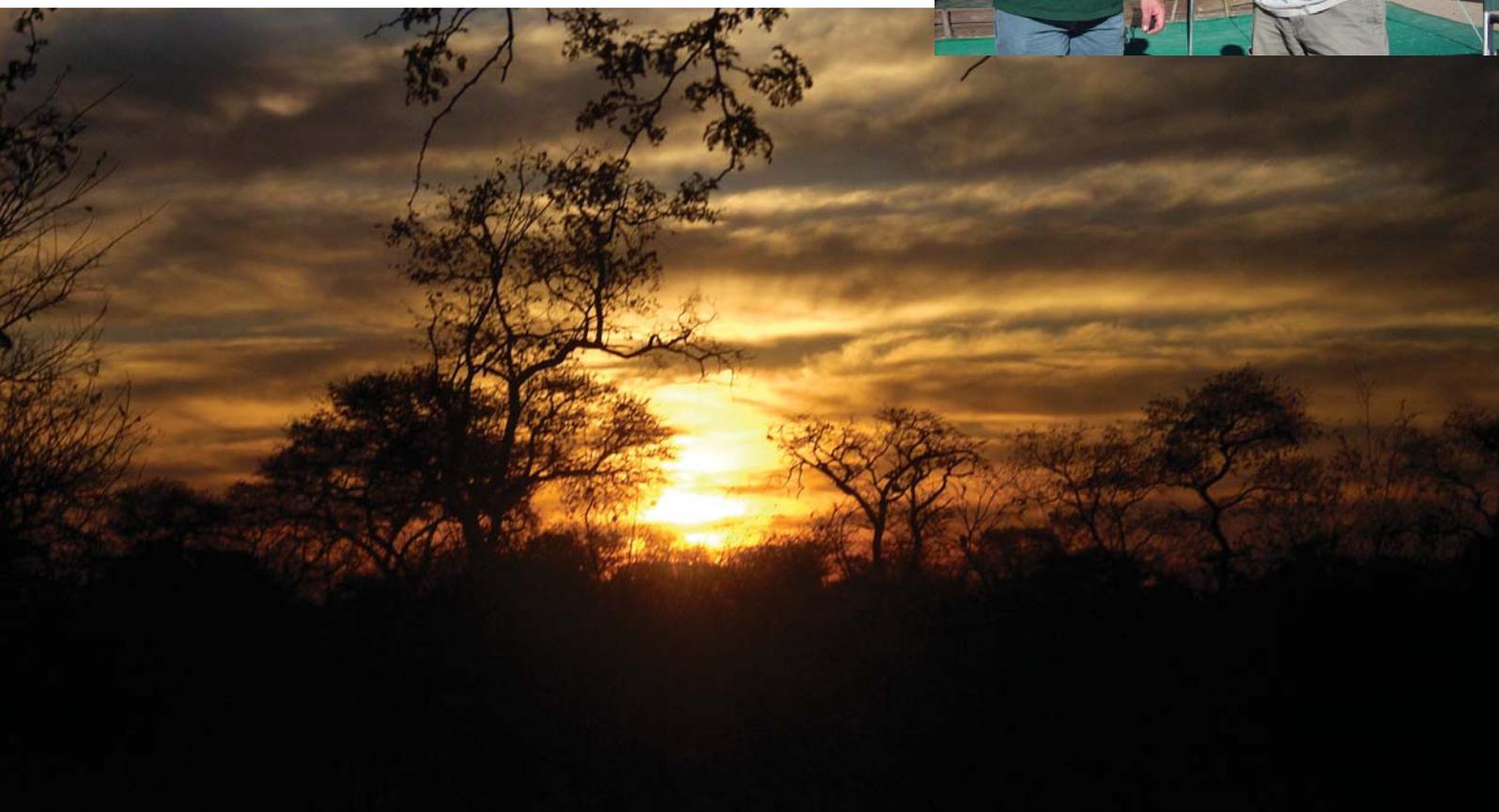


spend constant days following spoor to try and locate and collar more animals. With my 18 years of captive experience and 9 years of in-situ field work in Zimbabwe allowed for many days of cross pollination of ideas. I assisted Robin in constructing several 'safe' snares as we use in Zimbabwe to catch the dogs around dens or water holes and techniques for their set up in the field. Once approval is gained from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism he should be able to utilise them to capture more dogs for collaring without the risk of a stray darts by hand injecting instead.

Our financial support for Robin to date includes a Radio Tracking receiver and GPS unit (*bottom right*). He is in urgent need of equipment including: 2-way car radio and base set, handheld 2-way units, GPS Collars and receiver, Army surplus supplies of tents and clothing for trackers and volunteers, Telephoto lens for Canon 100-400mm IS L and most of all a replacement vehicle. If any members are keen to donate money or goods or know of someone to help, please do not hesitate to contact me on lemonj@ozemail.com.au or my mobile phone 0419 956 238.

Our sincere thanks go out to Robin for his hospitality and professionalism and I will continue my personal support and involvement with him in the years to come plus the backing from PDC Inc. Thanks mate, regards John and Ang!

My personal thanks must also go to Nicholas Duncan and the SAVE Foundation Inc. Committee for funding my airfare, Nia Carras from Travel Directors for helping in booking the trip and two un-named supporters who contributed funds for the trip. Sincere thanks to you all!



FUNDRAISING DINNER WITH ROBIN LINES

16 FEBRUARY 2007

In breaking news, Robin Lines who heads up the Wild Dog Project in Namibia will be in Australia from next week, and we will be holding a fundraising dinner with Robin as the keynote speaker at Zebra's African Steakhouse in Bicton on Saturday 16 February, where you can meet and greet Robin in person.

In addition, Amanda Ash from Murdoch University, will also be presenting a talk on the night on her recent trip to Kellie Leigh's project in Zambia, and De Wildt in South Africa, where she is conducting research on parasites in Painted Dogs. PDCInc is supporting Robin on his trip to Australia, and has also supported Amanda on her recent visit to Africa.

Amanda, as a PhD student, is also being co-supervised by our Vice Chairman, John Lemon. There will also be a special guest in the audience

as well – Alan Strachan, who is the curator at De Wildt Wildlife centre in South Africa and specialises in Painted Dogs (and cheetah!). In one night, we will have Painted Dog experts from Namibia, South Africa and our own members who have worked extensively in both Zimbabwe and Zambia – a “dog fest” indeed!

Those that attended the AGM/Dinner will have heard of John and Angela Lemon's trip to Namibia in 2007 and would have also viewed Kellie Leigh's work in Zambia.

Please mark this date in your diaries. The cost is \$50 per person for a delicious 3 course meal and places are limited to 40. A flyer will be issued shortly on how to secure your seat on the night. As always, the night will be a great opportunity to network with other members, meet the field researchers that we support and of course have a little bit of fun!

Project Bio: Amanda Ash, PhD Candidate Murdoch University

Amanda completed a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science at La Trobe University, Melbourne in 2004. After receiving offers for honours in both Zoology and Parasitology she decided to take up the offer in the field of parasitology. This year long project involved a parasitological survey of all ungulate and primate species at Singapore Zoological Gardens and Night Safari. The project was a success and sparked a passion for parasites and their biodiversity in wildlife. After obtaining a first class honours for this project in 2006 she applied and received scholarship for a PhD project at Murdoch University, Perth. This research project is focused on parasites of the African Painted Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) in both captive and wild populations and is a perfect project for Amanda to continue her research into wildlife and their parasites. The project will be conducted over a period of 3 years (2007-2010) and involves captive animals at Perth, Adelaide and Monarto Zoos and DeWildt Wildlife Trust in South Africa and wild animals in Zambia and Namibia.

With generous financial support from PDCInc Amanda was able to recently travel to Africa for field work. The majority of time involved tracking

African Painted Dogs (APD) in South Luangwa NP, Zambia. These packs were not radio-collared so many long days were spend driving around the national park hoping to come across APD. A plethora of African wildlife was seen during this time but it took some 10 days before finally sighting the dogs. A pack known as the Kapamba pack, was finally located and followed for a few days. During this time faecal samples were greedily collected and should yield some fascinating data!! Time was also spent at DeWildt Wildlife Trust in South Africa. This facility is involved in captive breeding and has had much success with APD. Currently they have 90 dogs at the facility which meant there was no shortage of samples to be collected, fixed, documented and packaged up for return to Australia and later analysis in the lab at Murdoch University.



Caracal

Caracal caracal

The Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), also called Persian Lynx or African Lynx, is a fiercely territorial medium-sized cat. The Caracal is labeled as a small cat, but is amongst the heaviest of all small cats, as well as the fastest. Males typically weigh about 13-18 kg (28-40 lbs), while females are smaller. The Caracal resembles a Eurasian Lynx and for a long time it was considered a close relative of the lynxes. Recent DNA research, however, has shown that the Caracal is not a close relative of lynxes at all, but is instead related to the Serval.

The Caracal is 65 cm in length (about 2 ft), plus 30 cm tail (about 1 foot). It has longer legs and a slimmer appearance than a lynx. The colour of the fur is variable: it may be wine-red, grey or sand-coloured. Melanistic (black) Caracals also occur. Young Caracals bear reddish spots on the underside; adults do not have markings except for black spots above the eyes.

The most conspicuous feature of the Caracal are its long, tufted black ears, which also explain the origin of its name – karakulak, Turkish for “black ear”. Its ears are controlled by 20 different muscles to help it find its prey. The tufts of fur help pinpoint its prey.

The Caracal is distributed over Africa and western Asia. Its habitat includes dry steppes and semi-deserts, but also includes woodlands, savannah, and scrub forest. It is a solitary, or paired,



territorial cat.

The Caracal may survive without drinking for a long period — the water demand is satisfied with the body fluids of its prey.

It hunts at night (but in colder seasons also in the daytime) for rodents and hares; rarely may even attack a gazelle, a small antelope or a young ostrich. It is a picky eater, and discards the internal organs of the mammals it catches, partially plucks the fur off of hyraxes and larger kills, and avoids eating hair by shearing meat neatly from the skin. However, it will eat the feathers of small birds and is tolerant of rotten meat.

It is most well-known for its skill with hunting birds; the Caracal is able to snatch a bird in flight, sometimes more than one at a time. The Caracal can jump and climb exceptionally well, which enables it to catch hyraxes better than probably any other

carnivore.

Its life expectancy in the wild is 12 years, or 17 years in captivity. Since it is also surprisingly easy to tame, it has been used as a hunting cat in Iran and India.

Because it is so easily tamed, the Caracal is sometimes kept as a pet, and is said to adapt easily to living with humans. It is often viewed as vermin by farmers in Africa because it frequently climbs over fences to eat chickens and other poultry.

The Caracal is almost impossible to see in the wild, not because there are very few of them, but because it hides extremely well. Game drives in countries such as Kenya and Botswana widely encounter other animals, but a sighting of a Caracal is extremely rare.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracal>



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Conservation through action and education

Find us on the Web

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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.



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 40
Westminster WA 6061**

Credit cards (Overseas and Australia): We can accept either Visa or Mastercard. Please tear off the slip below and forward to the Treasurer, whose address appears above.

Credit Card Transaction

Please note that PDC Inc does not recommend provision of credit card details via email, and will not request them.

Name:

Address:

Credit Card Type: Visa / Mastercard

Card Number.....Expiry Date.....

Name on Card.....

Amount:.....\$AUD / \$USD Signature:.....

Please note that the entry on your statement will be "Chris & Marge McClelland, Oxley".

Australian Residents: Donations or gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.