



June 2010

Written and edited by John
Lemon and Daniel Scarparolo
©PDCInc 2010

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 - Angela Lemon
Secretary - Tracey Bernasconi
Treasurer - Lorraine Dunn

Patrons: Tony Park
Bradley Trevor Greive



From the Chairman

Since our last newsletter, we have had an extremely busy five months with many exciting stories to share which will be highlighted in the newsletter below.

Firstly, I would like to welcome the following new members to our association: Meredith Conroy, Lyndsay Fairclough, Julie-Anne Smith, Chris Batini, Timmie Michelakos, Justin Scerri, Michelle Clark-Crumpton, Huw Hepworth, Claudia Amonini, Richard Lipscombe, Derek Smith, Danny Pitts, Rachel Meyer, Judith Parker, Justin Stobie, Frances Ingall and John Dean.

Additionally, I would like to officially welcome Lorraine Dunn as our new Treasurer. Lorraine has served on many non-profit conservation agencies and is also an active Docent at Perth Zoo. We look forward to working with Lorraine and sharing her experience. I would also like to take the opportunity to officially thank Tracey Bernasconi, our Secretary for undertaking the dual role of Secretary and Treasurer until Lorraine's appointment. Tracey has done an amazing job and I am sure between the two ladies they will do a great job to help our Association prosper.

We have also distributed a considerable amount of funding in the past six months including \$10,000 to South Luangwa Conservation Society to pay for our very own Anti-poaching team. This is a follow on from \$10,000 from the year before. Our Thanks go to the Perth Zoo who, through their Wildlife Conservation Action Fund, has made the \$20,000.00 available for this crucial work.

We have also distributed \$5000US to the Zambian Carnivore Programme to undertake a large scale Domestic Dog Vaccination project to curb the spread of domestic canine diseases to our beloved Painted Dogs.

In addition, we have distributed \$9000US to pay the wages of Lisa Gower, the Community Conservation Educator doing an amazing job working on a joint project between Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre and the Zambian Carnivore Programme. For more information check out www.chipembele.org or www.youtube.com/user/ChipembeleWildlife. We have also contributed \$4100 to Dr Kellie Leigh, founder of the African Wild Dog Conservation project (Now known as the Zambian Carnivore Programme) to undertake invaluable Genetic work on Painted Dogs.

Additionally, we have provided \$3100 to PhD candidate studying at Painted Dog Conservation Zimbabwe, Esther van der Meer, to purchase an Argos GPS Collar for her valuable research. We are also actively fundraising to support Painted Dog Conservation in Zimbabwe to drill boreholes in rural communities through the generous support of Sue

Chipchase from Pet Magic. WA's largest Pet Shop.

For those that have been following the progress of another PhD candidate of which I am co-supervisor, Amanda Ash, her ground breaking research on parasites in both Captive and wild Painted Dogs is almost complete and we look forward to her work being published.

We must also send our congratulations to two of our committee members Peter Wood and Rebecca Chriss who married on 6 March 2010. We wish them all the best for a long and happy life together!

I must bid farewell until next newsletter. Please enjoy the stories contained within this edition, in particular our upcoming fundraising event in August with our Patron, Tony Park.

Best Wishes

John Lemon
Chairman, PDC Inc.

New Website and PO Box for PDCInc.

Thanks to Kellie Leigh, renowned artist (www.bushpalette.com), founder and trustee of African Wild Dog Conservation Zambia, we will soon have a new website. She is currently constructing the new one for us as this goes to print and should be up and running in the next few months. Additionally, we now have a new Post Office Box 637 South Perth 6951.

Inside this issue

Borehole Appeal for Painted Dog Conservation...	Page 2
PDCInc. Life Membership...	Page 3
Robin Lines Visits Perth...	Page 3
PDCInc. Now Using Secure Pay...	Page 4
Westpac South Perth Supporting PDCInc...	Page 4
Dr Kellie Leigh's Painted Dog Genetic Project...	Page 5
Update from Esther Van Der Meer...	Page 5
PDCInc. and Shelley Primary School...	Page 5
Wild Dog Anti-snaring Team Report: Zambia...	Page 6
Conservation Education Officer...	Page 6
PDCInc. Land Rover Destined for Zambia...	Page 7
Update from Patron Tony Park...	Page 8
The Return of Tony Park to Perth...	Page 9
"Paintings for Painted Dogs" Art Auction...	Page 10
Letter from Patron Bradley Trevor Greive...	Page 11
Profile on Chris McLelland...	Page 13
Custom Vintage...	Page 14
Creature Feature: Banded Mongoose...	Page 15
Donations...	Page 16



Painted Dog Conservation Inc. and Pet Magic Community Borehole Appeal for Painted Dog Conservation Zimbabwe.

Project Strategy Background: Lupote Village - Pilot Project.

Lupote Village borders Hwange National Park and as such is located in a human wildlife conflict zone. It is situated in a Kalahari sand ecosystem and as such is a poor farming area with erratic rainfall and poor, infertile soil. The community suffers from malnutrition and poverty due to lack of economic development, factors causal to relatively high occurrence of HIV / AIDS. Historically, Lupote has been a hot bed of illegal poaching activity, which threatens the future of painted dogs and their habitat.

In 2004, PDC secured funding to drill a borehole at Lupote School and thus provide a secure source of water, which in turn facilitated the development of a nutritional garden. Utilizing skill sharing, conservation education and training the garden aimed to provide the community with a reliable food source. The goal was to reduce the reliance on illegal bush meat and to improve overall levels of health. An additional bonus was the production of cash crops, which helped alleviate economic hardships.

Fully operational now, the Lupote Garden Project is self sustainable after only three years.

Project Goal

PDC has identified limited environmental awareness and a lack of economic opportunities as significant factors threatening the future of painted dogs and the communities they co exist with. Thus the goal of the intended Programme is to put together Conservation Education and Natural Resources Development, Use and Management with the hope to bring direct and real benefit to the local peoples in terms of increased livelihood opportunities. Our goal is not merely to teach new concepts about the environment, but to promote an emotional attachment to it that will lead to a lifelong attitude of caring for it.

Project Objectives

1. To increase the numbers of functional boreholes by 8 in the 5 operational areas by drilling new ones and managing in order to boost food security.
2. Establish Nutritional gardens adjacent to the 8 boreholes. Utilizing live fencing and filter irrigation systems.
3. Develop and promote enterprises based on sustainable natural resource use and management, in order to increase food security, nutritional health and household income levels in the 5 operational areas.

Target Group

- The five local communities around Hwange National Park.
- The school youths are a key target group for the success of long term sustainable conservation and natural resource management.
- Women, to improve gender equality.

Other Organization's Involvement

- Forestry Commission develops and disseminates rules and regulations regarding harvesting of tree species.
- National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority are the guardians of the Parks and all the species in it and we inevitably collaborate with them for educational purposes in the Programme.

- Hwange Rural District Council
- CAMPFIRE

Benefits of the Project to the Communities

It is our belief that conservation is futile if local communities are not active participants in the conservation effort. This is particularly salient as more often than not the survival of the focal animal hinges on local knowledge, positive attitude and assistance from rural communities.

The proposed project would be of benefit to both the communities and the environmental as interventions are focused towards healing of the soils, rehabilitating the decayed areas and running income generating ventures.

The project will further improve food security and provide an alternative protein source to reduce reliance on the bush meat trade precipitated by a ready market by the poor.

In the wake of HIV/AIDS pandemic, nutritional gardens serve a purpose of providing necessary food supplements balanced diets integral to good health and boosting of the immune system.

By targeting women the project will enhance opportunities for gender equality by empowering women through income from garden produce sales

Finally, it is an unequivocal fact that today's children are tomorrow's wildlife custodians and they need to be educated about the various problems facing endangered species and their environment in a way that touches their hearts and minds thus generating a greater stakeholder attitude in them.

Sue Chipchase and Pet Magic

Well known in Perth for being the founder and owner of Western Australia's largest

Pet Superstore and a tremendous supporter of PDC Inc, Sue Chipchase has risen to the challenge to raise \$15,000 toward the Zimbabwe Bore Hole Appeal. Next time you need to spoil your pet loved ones please ensure you drop and see Sue and her team and donate to the appeal at Pet Magic Shop 8/1500 Albany Hwy Cannington WA 6107. Phone (08) 9458 1970. www.petmagic.com.au.



PDC Inc. Life Membership

Due to an ever increasing membership base and many very loyal supporters, we have decided to offer Life Memberships to those that love Painted Dogs and the cause as much as we do.

It would also make a lovely gift to a loved one or someone who has everything. As part of joining for life you will receive beautiful plaque embossed with your name (see picture below) to proudly display in your home or office.

Life memberships are \$500 and can be arranged by contacting Tracey Bernasconi, the PDC Inc. Secretary, on bernasconis@backpackercarrentals.com.au.

Stop Press!

We have our very first Painted Dog Conservation Inc. Life Member!

Mr Ric Dunlop, Manager Life Sciences at Perth Zoo, jumped at the opportunity and is now our very first Life Member!

Welcome to Ric as a first time member and now one for life.



Robin Lines Director of the Wild Dog Project Visits Perth

Robin Lines visited Perth during mid to late April and was a special guest of PDC Inc. at the "Paintings for Painted Dogs" Art Auction fundraiser.

The Namibian project continues to be hampered by evasive action from the Namibian Ministry of Environment & Tourism. This followed concerns from key Government stakeholders about the human-wildlife conflict implications of dogs escaping from the park in the run up to recent elections. While these political bottlenecks are being resolved, it is hoped that Robin and Matt Becker from the Zambian project can collaborate on building transboundary synergies - in essence an acknowledgement of the need for increased transboundary pooling of resources and skills in the conservation of such wide-ranging species.



Robin joins John on the stage during the presentation at "Paintings for Painted Dogs".

Preliminary discussions have focused on research collaboration in Kafue National Park - a vast 5m ha area in central western Zambia - thought to contain a globally important Painted Dog population - perhaps as large as 500 individuals. Kafue is also believed to be a conservation hotspot for Cheetah, and a dual-species approach is likely to be adopted to dovetail with Regional and National Conservation Strategies for both species.

The focus now is to utilise project resources for work in Namibia and Zambia, to maintain pressure for the adoption of a Region-wide Management Plan and development of a National Management Plan (that would include the Etosha National Park reintroduction), while developing the transboundary conservation cooperation with ZCP Zambia.

PDC Inc would like to promote Fane, Caine & Komoto Accountants Pty Limited for undertaking our Financial Audits at Super competitive rates!

Fane, Caine & Komoto Public Accountants Pty Ltd
ABN: 15 119 804 956
Address: 69 Morgan Road, Seville Grove WA 6112
Phone: 0422-536389

We are available 24 hours/week, 7 days/week. We can come to you. At the moment Clarkson to Mandurah and Fremantle to Mundaring. We do individual, partnership, trust, company and superannuation fund return and self managed super fund audit. We do bookkeeping as well. Our fees are cheaper than most of the accounting firms.

Shunya Komoto

PDC Inc. now using Secure Pay

From the inception of PDC Inc. up until earlier this year, we have been very fortunate that founding members and long time supporters of PDC Inc, Chris and Margie McClelland (see Chris' profile in the newsletter), have allowed us to use their merchant facilities i.e. Wild Prints, to process all of our credit card transactions. We sincerely thank them both for their support of allow us to use the facilities for almost 7 years!

Due to our membership base steadily climbing, including those from overseas, we needed to develop our own merchant facility, which we have chose to setup through SecurePay.

SecurePay enables PDC Inc. to process Visa and Mastercard credit card payments online, 24 hours and a day, 7 days a week, from anywhere in the world. All that is required is reliable access to the internet. It also now enables us to process payments live at a fundraising function for example, allowing the happy buyer to pay for their goods and take them home the same evening, which is a benefit of modern mobile technology.

Processing credit and debit card payments online is a cost effective and time efficient process versus other more traditional means and saves your Association valuable dollars by avoiding the usual bank's stationery and maintenance requirements.

If you're interested in the security of the SecurePay services, here's a little information regarding their services. SecurePay's offices are located in both Sydney and Melbourne and they specialise in payment based technologies and other complimentary applications which include:-

- bill payment systems
- eCommerce payment systems
- customised payment systems

The range of bill payment and eCommerce solutions they have on offer is unmatched in the Australian market and are delivered using a range of leading proprietary developed systems well tested and proven.

For over 10 years, SecurePay has been at the forefront of their field. Within this time they have progressively acquired other organisations and technology platforms that compliment their core range of services including DirectOne and eSec.

With Level 1 Service Provider PCI DSS Compliance they provide the most secure platform available in today's market. For more information regarding SecurePay's security standards please visit their website at www.securepay.com.au.

All this explains why they have a customer base totaling in excess of 11,000 clients including:-

- Australian Banks
- State and Local Government Organisations
- Water, Gas and Power Utilities
- Insurance Companies
- Telecommunications Carriers
- Small, Mid Range and Major Corporates
- Online Retailers
- Payment Gateways and Billing Organisations
- And now Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated

Westpac South Perth supporting PDC Inc.

Since the inception of PDC Inc. in October 2003 we have been loyal customers of the Westpac Banking Corporation In recent months we have developed a mutual relationship in the pursuit of fundraising for our cause. Dave Catterson, Branch Manager of the South Perth Branch and his staff have allowed us to show case our association on their notice Board plus they have also been fundraising for us.

Below is a brief story from Dave and his team and we thank them sincerely for their support.

At Westpac South Perth we run regular competitions for Customers and our last one was run over a two-week period with an Easter theme. Any customer applying for the nominated bank Product(s) for the Easter Competition was automatically entered into a draw to win the prize (which comprised numerous Easter Eggs, chocolates, a bottle of champagne and two 'Westpac' wine glasses).

If customers didn't want to apply for the bank Product they were allowed to enter the draw if they made a gold coin donation to our nominated charity i.e. the Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

We also feature the Society in the branch via leaflets & cash donation tins, and they are featured on our 'Local (Business) Board'.

Regards

Dave Catterson, Bank Manager, South Perth

Westpac Banking Corporation

South Shore Shopping Centre, Mends Street, South Perth 6151 Phone 08 9367 0060



Dr Kellie Leigh's Painted Dog Genetic Project

PDC Inc is generously supporting a new African wild dog genetics project. It's thrilling, gripping, top-secret technology and we can't tell you much about it yet because then you'd have to eat or burn this newsletter, but it has some great conservation significance for the dogs. The project is being led in partnership by Zambian Carnivore Project founder Dr Kellie Leigh and Prof. Herman Raadsma from the University of Sydney. The African wild dog samples being used include samples from the Zambian field project (managed by Dr Matt Becker) and also some extra samples from captive dogs kindly provided by Perth Zoo.

Most people start to glaze over when you start talking about DNA, well apart from CSI fans, but apart from helping to solve crimes genes are linked to basic survival factors like

breeding success, juvenile survival, disease resistance, and the ability of a species to adapt to selection pressures, all of which can differ between individual dogs and also between populations. Accessing more of this sort of information is incredibly important for good management of wild and captive populations of endangered species: it can be used to guide conservation management activities right across the wild dogs' range in Africa including for wildlife corridor projects and connecting networks of populations

(metapopulations) which are more likely to survive than any single population. More locally, high quality genetic information is also critical for the management and breeding of captive animals. We look forward to being able to share some results from this exciting work soon!

Update from Esther van der Meer, PhD Student, at Painted Dog Conservation, Zimbabwe



Dear John,

I'm very happy to let you know that after a period of testing the GPS collar on the roof of my car I managed to deploy the collar PDC Inc sponsored last Friday. I replaced Bull's eye's collar with a new GPS collar. Bull's eye is part of the Kutanga pack, a pack we've been following for the past months. The female in the pack, whom I collared last year June, is heavily pregnant and will be denning any time soon. I'm happy we managed to have a GPS collar in the pack before the female starts denning as even when they den in a remote area without roads we'll be able to keep track of them.

I'll keep you updated about their movements,

Very best wishes,

Esther

PDCInc. and Shelley Primary School

Rebecca Austin the Population Biologist at Perth Zoo and active Parent of Shelley Primary School recently posted the advertisement (right) in the Shelley Primary School Newsletter.

Thanks to Becky we have been inundated with goods and thank all the parents and children involved in the collection.

Rest assured that it will go to a very appreciative home!

WANTED: Children's clothes, books, toys, etc.

PAINTED DOG CONSERVATION INC is sending a Land Rover to Zambia to assist with important African Wild Dog conservation work. Rather than send the vehicle empty we would like to fill it with much needed donations for the local children.

Please leave your donations in the box provided in the front office or contact Becky on 0403 302 817 to arrange a pickup. Collections end 31 May. Thank you for your generosity.

Wild Dog Anti-snaring Team Report: Zambia

January–May 2010

The wet season patrols by SLCS's African wild dog anti-snaring team were a big success, aided greatly by the satellite-collaring of a pack in the high snare-risk area of the Lower Lupande game management area.

Aided by dog locations provided by the Zambian Carnivore Programme the team has been following the dogs in this area since January, beginning with the removal of 18 snares in the vicinity of where the dogs were collared just a day before. Since this time they have been conducting a variety of day patrols and short patrols throughout the park and GMA's and are presently on a ten day patrol in the general area where the dogs are denning; this area borders three villages and is where the dogs will most likely be apt to encounter snares.

From January–April 2010, the team has conducted the following anti-poaching patrols:

- Long patrols (10 days)–6
- Short patrols (5–7 days)–4
- Day patrols–15
- Snares recovered–84
- Suspects apprehended–2
- Firearms confiscated–3
- Ammunition confiscated–132

Wild dogs were seen on two occasions in Chamboo and Luamfwa.

In addition, in order to better assess trends and patterns of snaring, SLCS and ZCP are currently training scouts in field research and data collection techniques aimed at better evaluating snaring trends and patterns and ultimately being able to evaluate the success of anti-snaring efforts.

Vaccination Program

The recent funding of a large-scale domestic dog vaccination program has progressed well, with activities slated for late July and early August, during which 1000 dogs will be vaccinated against rabies, parvo, and distemper. This work will be in concert with information collection from dog owners on incidences of carnivore conflict and the dissemination of informational pamphlets on dog care to prevent disease.

The distribution strategy of vaccinations has been designed by ZCP collaborators specializing on wildlife disease at the United States Department of Agriculture/National Wildlife Research Center.

We are very excited to begin this work and this funding has already led to the inclusion of vaccination programs in Liuwa and Bangweulu Wetlands.



Conservation Education Officer

Painted Dog Conservation Inc embarked on financially supporting Lisa Gower from the UK to undertake the role of Conservation Education Officer. A joint brain child of Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre and the Zambian Carnivore Programme (formerly African Wild Dog Conservation). To date PDC Inc has provided \$9000USD toward the programme and will continue to fundraise to ensure this much needed position continues to flourish.

Below is an update from Anna and Steve Tolan, Directors and Founding Trustees of Chipembele Wildlife Trust. More information on their amazing work can be found at www.chipembele.org.

After almost a year of working as a volunteer for Chipembele managing the schools improvement projects and pupil sponsorship scheme it was obvious that Lisa Gower was the perfect candidate to manage the new conservation education programme in the local schools that began in March 2010. She has excellent people skills and attracts children like the Pied Piper of Hamelin wherever she goes. The teachers and local community simply love her.

For Chipembele it has meant the conservation education programme has taken off in leaps and bounds. Lisa's intimate knowledge of the education system in the schools and conservation clubs gave the programme a head start and it now encompasses a range of conservation projects including an

inter-schools tree planting competition, a Chipembele Rangers scheme, worm farm projects in the schools, tree planting under a tourism carbon offset programme, environmental campaigns, computer training for conservation club members, guest speakers (safari guides, game scouts etc), drama, quizzes, game drives in the National Park etc. We are also thrilled to be partnering with the Zambian Carnivore Programme in the Conservation Club activities at the local secondary school.

Our sincere thanks go to Painted Dog Conservation Inc. for their financial support of this project.



Lisa with students from Yosefe School.



Above left to right: The Glorious Series III destined for South Luangwa Zambia; Great Graphics courtesy of Troy York of Road Runner Graphics and Signs www.roadrunnersigns.com.au.

PDC Inc. Land Rover Destined for Zambia.

With our recent commitment to the Community Education officer in Zambia and our on going support for the Zambian Carnivore programme (formerly African Wild Dog Conservation) we have had an influx of enquiries from Perth Based Educators to get involved with the on the ground education programme.

To ensure that once at the project, volunteers can get around to schools in remote areas, we had to find a suitable vehicle that would not only be reliable but also easily repaired when any problems arise.

A Land Rover would be the call of the day and through the generosity of Syd Chipchase, who not only tracked a vehicle down for us but also paid for it outright, we are now the proud owners of a fully restored Series III Land Rover, once the pride and joy of enthusiast Clyde Brennan.

Syd and his wife Sue, who also appears in this newsletter for her fundraising initiatives for the Zimbabwe Bore Hole appeal, are huge supporters of PDC Inc and without their ongoing support we would be at a loss to achieve many of the goals we have set

ourselves for this year and others to come.

The Land Rover since purchase has had a full medical by Brian Bernasconi resident mechanical whizz and husband of Tracey our Treasurer. Thanks Brian!!!

Troy York of Road Runner Graphics and Signs www.roadrunnersigns.com.au has worked his magic with branding the vehicle for us and I think you would have to agree it really does look the part.

Not only did Troy do a fantastic job but he also donated his time and materials to the cause free of charge!!! Troy was also responsible for supplying the logos that branded the Toyota Hilux donated to Robin Lines in Namibia back in 2008. If you are in need of any type of sign or graphics for your home or Business please contact Troy on 0418 945 666.

We will also fit new tyres and a roof rack to the vehicle prior to the long trip by sea to the Dark Continent later in the year. Stay tuned for further updates.



Above left to right: John Lemon Chairman PDC Inc with former owner Clyde Brennan and Syd Chipchase Donor; Syd receiving his certificate of appreciation for his ongoing support of PDC Inc.; Sue receiving her certificate for ongoing support of PDC Inc.

Update from Patron Tony Park

I only returned from another six months in Africa in mid March 2010 but I've been so busy since I've been back in Australia the time has just flown.

Incredibly, my publishers and I are already planning a publicity tour for the launch of my next novel, "The Delta", due out in August. I'll be speaking at a Perth PDC Inc fundraiser to launch the book in WA on the evening of August 6 – John and Ange will have all the details soon.

"The Delta" is set largely in the Moremi Game Reserve and the cast of characters includes a mysterious spy who masquerades as a preacher, by the name of Sydney Chipchase, and a bush-savvy painted dog researcher by the name of John Lemon.

Sydney bid at the PDC Inc fundraiser last August to have his name used as a character in this book, and John's name is the result of a generous donation by PDC member Kim Hoddy.

On June 1 this year my second non fiction book comes out and it's about dogs of a very different kind to painted ones.

"War Dogs" is the biography of Shane Bryant, a former Australian Army and police explosive sniffer dog handler who has been working as a contract dog handler in Afghanistan these past four years.

If you're interested in animals generally, as I am, then I think you

might be interested in this insight into the life of working dogs in one of the world's most dangerous places.

On my last trip to Africa I was lucky enough to visit the Painted Dog Conservation Information Centre near Hwange's main camp, and I'm keen to get back there for another look on my forthcoming trip.

I'm kicking off my next visit to Africa by escorting a tour to the Okavango Delta, Chobe and Victoria Falls with 10 of my readers in early September, and there is still space if you'd like to join us. There's more information on my blog at www.tonyparkblog.blogspot.com

I look forward to seeing everyone from WA gain this August, and to hopefully selling off some more names for my next book, which is all about rhino conservation and the tragic results of the disastrous land distribution programs in Zimbabwe.

Africa has more than her fair share of problems, but when you think about the great grass-roots projects that PDC Inc funds, and the terrific people who give so much of their time both here in Australia and overseas I think you'll agree that there is more than just a glimmer of hope for the future.

Cheers,

Tony.

Date for Your Diary:

The Return of Tony Park to Perth in 2010



Tony Park returns for his annual trip to Perth on Friday 6 August, 2010.

Tony will be launching his new book, "The Delta", in which our Chairman, John Lemon is one of the characters—a Painted Dog researcher! In addition, long term supporter Syd Chipchase will also be a character in the book—a spy masquerading as a preacher!

This will be Tony's third function for PDC Inc, which will combine his book launch with an auction to raise funds for our in situ projects. Previous evenings with Tony have all been sold out and enjoyable evenings indeed!

The function will be a cocktail event at the Hyatt Hotel in East Perth. Final details are being organised—however, please keep this night free and further details will be forwarded shortly!

Looking forward to seeing you all there, where you will have the opportunity to meet Tony first hand, buy his new book "hot off the press" and purchase some unique items in our auction.



"Paintings for Painted Dogs" Art Auction Event

Friday 23 April 2010 at Memorial Exhibition Hall, Hamilton Hill

Painted Dog Conservation Inc hosted their first fundraising event for the year—"Paintings for Painted Dogs". Ninety people were in attendance on the night, with art on display from Australian and International Artists, including Steve Morvell, Chris McClelland, Jenny Preston, Lindy Cullen, Shirley Fisher, Elka Hacking, Lesley Hacking, Andrew Tyzack, Caroline Howlett, Paul Holme, Bradley Trevor Greive and Kellie Leigh.

The evening commenced with a viewing of the artworks from 6.30pm, where guests were met by the cheerful staff from Ripe Art catering, offering them a glass of wine and canapés on arrival. The friendly service and continuous supply of food continued for the duration of the evening.

John Lemon formally welcomed members and guests to the event, giving an overview of the order of events for the evening,

and a summary of the achievements of PDC Inc to date. Certificates of Appreciation were also given to Sue and Syd Chipchase for their ongoing generosity (see separate stories).

Nicholas Duncan from SAVE Foundation was again in fine form commencing the Auction proceedings for the evening. He worked the crowd well, and kept guests entertained throughout the event. Our sincere thanks go to Nicholas for his ongoing support.

Some Paintings were donated outright by the artists, and for others part proceeds came to PDC Inc. We are pleased to announce that we raised approximately \$12,000 on the night—so thank you to everyone that was involved in supporting the evening.



Local Artist Paul Holme with his creation "Extinct"



Letter from Patron Bradley Trevor Greive

As those who know me are well aware, I have many reasons to feel ashamed, including the fact that I had meant to add a personal note to the last two issues of the PDC Inc Newsletter but somehow failed to complete this perversely simple and supremely straightforward task. My feeble defence, such as it is, is that I am a lazy and dishevelled ape, and I have been abroad.

Initially I undertook an extensive international book tour to promote my latest comic opus, *Why Dogs Are Better Than Cats*. This wearying obligation took me to various Australian centres, followed by numerous stops in the USA, Canada, France and finally the UK. Book tours of such scale were once a lush bacchanalian affair – long days spent spinning webs of wit with media hacks and signing books for queues of admiring fans, followed by even longer nights awash with fine wines and sweet meats. The next day, at some ungodly hour, your caffeinated publicist would drag you from beneath a fleshy and fragrant blanket of literary groupies, force a breath-mint into your mouth and shovel your numb buttocks into a breakfast talk show studio chair to start all over again. Sadly, this is no longer the case. Such fantasies, based on the recollections of publishing's great heroes and scoundrels, are now but cause for impotent fury as one imagines how much more exciting literary life was back when the printed page was king. Book tours these days, especially the longer ones, tend to be crisp, strategic and painfully precise military style media strikes. Not one hour more than necessary is spent in any city, and publicists are becoming smarter, more discerning and far less interesting by the hour. Not surprising I suppose, seeing as the publishing industry itself has been infected with protestant sobriety amidst the chilling cloud of economic gloom. Still, I was startled to finally have met my first tee-totalling vegetarian literary publicist - Needless to say, I fired them on the spot.

The one relief was that my new book found an energetic and deliciously polarised audience. I've never before enjoyed such public or critical acclaim, nor have I received quite so many sacks filled with poorly punctuated hate-mail. Anyway, such vainglorious capitalist pursuits are not the point of this letter, so I'll move on. Suffice to say that within two weeks I was sick of the sound of my own voice and desperate for fresh air and blue skies.

My prayers were answered when I received an invitation from the Howard Gilman Foundation to travel to the legendary White Oak Plantation as their guest and stay on the hallowed grounds of the

White Oak Conservation Center for two months as their first Writer in Residence. For those who have been blessed to intrude upon the upper echelon of conservation circles this is the most extraordinary opportunity imaginable. The White Oak Conservation Center is home to a peerless scientific program and is generally regarded as the most exclusive and successful private conservation facility in the world. In addition, the cultural programs are also astounding, making it a dream destination for actors and dancers as well, and is thus frequented by such performing arts greats as Isabella Rossellini and Mikhail Baryshnikov, not to mention numerous heads of state - The amenities are simply out of this world. I was certainly not deserving of such a great honour and so therefore I immediately wrote back formally accepting the invitation before they realised their grievous error and the offer was swiftly and irrevocably withdrawn.

The White Oak Plantation sits astride the St Mary's river, the glittering silver ribbon that divides Florida and Georgia in the South-eastern United States. The property, encompassing some seven and a half thousand pristine acres is, quite simply, heaven on earth. I'd visited briefly three times before on various conservation business but had never had the time to really look around, explore and take it all in. I won't take up too much space describing the exquisite grounds and the range of rare species that live there, but will instead direct you to the Howard Gilman Foundation Website so you can see it for yourself at your leisure: <http://www.gilmanfoundation.org/>

Suffice to say I was overwhelmed by what this once in a lifetime experience offered me, and I particularly wanted to tell you about one morning I spent in the company of the life sciences team as they worked with one of their male Okapi. Please excuse my amateur photography but some things have to be seen to be believed.

Obviously there's a lot to be learned from an institution as passionate and professional as White Oak, and I'm proud to say that PDC Inc is doing just that. Our own John Lemon actually trained at White Oak back in 1995, and even had the pleasure of meeting Howard Gilman himself. There's no doubt that, in addition to all his other zoological studies in Australia and around the world, John took away a lot from White Oak that was, is and will continue to be invaluable to establishing and developing our pioneering work saving Painted Dogs from extinction.

2010 is now well underway and already, as you would have read, a lot



Left to right: As you may know, the Okapi is a close relative of the giraffe. They are shy and quiet creatures, and are only found in a single rainforest region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Though not yet as endangered as the Painted Dog, their situation is still critical. There are now only 10,000 or so of these wonderfully strange animals left, and their habitat is shrinking.

White Oak is the undisputed world leader in Okapi conservation –

operating an elite ex-situ breeding and research program in Northern Florida, as well as a huge in-situ reserve in the DROC's Ituri Rainforest.

On this morning the team was undertaking a standard annual check up. Once the Okapi is sedated he is stabilised and all vital signs are monitored and recorded. Throughout the procedure he rests on a padded mattress and has two soft rubber inner tubes under his head - comfort is king!



Left to right: Blood, tissue and semen are carefully collected by the science team under Dr Penfold's direction.

Breathing and heart-rate are monitored extremely closely from start to finish. The tongue is gently pulled out and to the side to ensure a clear airway. (FYI: Blue/grey is the normal colour of an Okapi's tongue - just like a giraffe's tongue).

The hooves are examined and many other careful health checks are made and data is collected. Two specialist vets are on hand throughout, and the head vet runs the show like a Swiss watch.

Everything happens seamlessly to minimise the time the Okapi is sedated - it's like watching a Formula 1 Grand Prix pit-stop, except everyone is whispering.

of great things have been accomplished. Though I sent some original artworks for the recent Art Auction event I was, due my being on the other side of the world, sadly unable to attend in person. The night was a great success and sounded like great fun from all accounts I've received- needless to say I am looking forward to returning to Perth to join in future events. However there is still much more to be done in 2010 if we are continue to grow, and grow we must if we are to turn the decline of this remarkable species around. Not many of you will get the chance to train at White Oak like John Lemon, or be blessed with his power-lifter legs - but without your help we couldn't put John's gifts to work where they are most needed - in Africa.

Each of us has a role to play. Please reaffirm your support for PDC Inc by renewing your membership and inviting at least two more friends to join up with you. We are desperately in need of members to ensure the message goes out and the support comes in. To that end, even the most modest tax-deductible donation goes a long, long way - The PDC Inc is the most cost effective conservation organisation I have ever worked with, and that's saying something. Money is not wasted on executive office holders or professional fundraisers - every penny goes towards purchasing equipment, supporting field work and running

education, animal rescue and research programs - and even this vital work operates on bare minimum budgets. In other words - PDC Inc is a wildlife conservation charity where your contribution, whether it be time, equipment, professional services or money, makes a real and immediate impact.

There's a lot more I'd love to share with you: such as my recent work with Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando and their groundbreaking research programs, also how I fell ill from drinking diluted manatee excrement, why bare-handed hog wrestling in the frozen marshes is bad for you, and then there's the time I fell madly in love with a Baird's

Tapir named Chac ... but all that will have to wait till the next newsletter.



Thank you once again for your ongoing support of Painted Dog Conservation Inc - we couldn't accomplish anything without you!

Bradley Trevor Greive



Left to right: After the main vet/science work is complete, the research team fit a new, experimental tracking collar which, if successful, will be developed further to keep track of wild animals in the DROC. Like the Painted Dog collars, these high-tech and extremely durable items are incredibly expensive: Each custom built collar costs \$5,000 - and the specialist software costs many thousands more.

Though designed specifically for the Okapi's unusually shaped neck it is still tricky to fit the collar in a way that will not interfere with the animals behaviour no matter how it moves its large head and long neck. It's worth the extra effort to get it just right. The animal's comfort and well-being always come before the pursuit of science.

Even when their specific job is done WOCC team members stay

close, ready to help - an Okapi is a big animal and all hands are needed to ensure the animals regains consciousness safely. In case you are wondering the vet behind the Okapi is timing the procedure carefully and taking the animal's pulse and temperature at all times.

As soon as the reproductive samples been taken they are transported back to the White Oak Conservation Center Laboratory so that leading scientists and numerous post-grad students can run immediate battery of tests. Sperm dies off very quickly once removed from the host and therefore accuracy of test results, and survival rate of stored materials, improves dramatically when the samples are fresh - in this case they are literally only a few minutes old. There's no where else quite like this.

Profile on Chris McClelland

Chris McClelland is famous for his unique, fine and intricate pencil drawings of African and Australian wildlife, which is quite a contrast to his previous career. He spent the last 40 years managing large Australian sheep and cattle stations, one, which ran 40,000 sheep. Through this work he developed a strong understanding of animal behaviour from observing Australian native animals on the station.

His natural talent for drawing was recognized early, and he drew horses for a hobby. He has had no formal training.

But he grew up with a fascination for Africa, inherited from his parents, and on his first trip there in 1994, with wife Margie, a respected photographer, he fell in love with the continent. He began writing reviews and drawing wildlife and lodges for The African Safari Magazine.

Africa stimulated his sense of sight, smell and sound and he "found its heartbeat deafening."

No other place on earth has the variety and numbers of such visible wildlife, and McClelland has since made ten trips to Africa, witnessing the powerful and unstoppable force of nature. He believes he has managed to gather Africa's spirit and soul to fuel his desire to draw and paint the people, places and wildlife of the country with all of its harshness, savagery and beauty.

He has spent hours studying his subjects in their natural habitat, observing their movements, and noting the interactions between predator and prey. He uses sketches, photographs, video footage and his own well-honed powers of observation as reference to accurately portray the behaviour and anatomy of his animals. He draws them with such fine detail that each of his drawings can take up to 300 hours.

Coming from the land and pioneering stock himself, he believes that the spirit of the Australian bush and the African bushveld is a part of him, and he finds it easy to become one with it.

Chris is now receiving many awards in Australia for his extraordinary detailed wildlife drawings using of graphite and coloured pencils. The opening of the Chris McClelland Gallery at 84 Lachlan Street in Hay is attracting a large number of visitors to view his wonderful drawings and observe him drawing. His living drawings are greatly sought after by discerning collectors.

Chris McClelland's Works

2010	"Tumblebug" selected into Focus on Nature exhibition New York State Museum, Albany USA in April	2007	November Runner-Up at AGRA Summer Exhibition "Natural Intent"
2009	"Dugga Boy" runner -up Summer Exhibition AGRA also won Packing Room Prize "Tupra Woolshed 1909 - 2007" People's Choice Award at AGRA Drawing exhibition "Young Australian" was hung in The Art for Conservation 2009 an International Exhibit of Nature in Art in September being hosted at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in Oradell, New Jersey, USA. Chris was admitted into the Society of Animal artists in America Chris made a Fellow of the Australian Guild of Realist Artists for his consistent high quality of his drawings over a number of years. Travelled to South America for more drawing ideas		Highly Commended Award QWASI Brisbane "Courageous Curiosity" AGRA Certificate of Recognition for consistent high quality of artwork October Runner Up at the WASA exhibition "Sovereignty in Peril" April Selected to exhibit in the "Drawing the Essential Art Exhibition at AGRA Gallery a Highly Commended Award plus viewer's choice for the exhibition" Jock of the Bushveld"
2008	Best Painting in the Summer Exhibition AGRA "Nature's Fury" November Best Painting in the Medal of Excellence Exhibition AGRA "A Young Australian" October won a Bronze Medal for his drawing "Intimate Intent" at the WASA Exhibition July Voted People's Choice at QWASI with "A Young Australian" February Runner-Up AGRA – Autumn Exhibition "Conflict of Interest" April Honourable Mention AGRA Drawing Exhibition "Rhino Post Safari Lodge"	2006	October Selected to Exhibit at the AGRA "Australian Art Excellence" Awards for 2006 in Melbourne at AGRA "The Matriarch's Challenge" won People's Choice Award August A Highly Commended Award at the Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize Adelaide with "Unique Australians" June "The Nursery" "runner up" at the AGRA Gallery's winter Exhibition May "Storm Over Broken Stripes" was featured in the "Antiques & Arts" Magazine & Art Gallery Magazine May Invited to exhibit his latest drawing "Morning Chill Over the Serengeti" in the "Drawing: the Essential Art" Exhibition at AGRA Gallery, Cnr. Camberwell & Inglesby Roads, Camberwell April Exhibition at Griffith Regional Art Gallery until 1st May. Showing some early works of horses and all his later African & Australian wildlife works some originals, prints and photocopies as the originals are now over in Africa.



Custom
Vintage



Leah Austin of Custom Vintage, a family owned & operated business based in Brisbane, has developed a range of Pet Care Products for PDC Inc. branded with our own caricature "Picasso". All of their natural products are hand-made, and contain no palm-oil. Sue Chipchase of Pet Magic here in Perth will be stocking the products or go to Leah's website www.customvintage.com.au to see the full range plus many of the other products Leah has to offer. Part proceeds of the sale of the Pet Care Products will go to PDC Inc. Thanks to Leah and Sue for their support.

Dog Shampoo: A wonderful, natural & palm-free shampoo base blended with extra jojoba oil, known to be beneficial to Dog's skin & coats, with a special and unique blend of essential oils, gums & resins - depending on the selection.

Doggie Coat Spray: Beautiful, natural & palm-free conditioning base blended with pure essential oils, known to be beneficial to Dog's skin & coats are added to purified rain water to create this wonderful product. Perfect to use in between baths, or for a quick spray to help get rid of the dreaded "doggie odour".

Dog Soap for Dry/Itchy Skin: Beautiful blend of natural oils create a moisturizing soap especially designed for dogs (although the humans who tested it loved it too!) Our Dry/Itchy Doggie Soap bars are handmade with olive, coconut, castor, jojoba, hazelnut and rice bran oils, shea nut butter and essential oils including cedar wood, lavender & Fir needle. We also added some vitamin E and aloe vera to soothe your pets' skin.

Soothe & Heal Dog Soap: Natural oils carefully selected for dogs (although the humans who tested it loved it too!) Custom Vintage "Soothe & Heal" Dog Soap bars are handmade with olive, coconut, safflower, castor, jojoba, and rice bran oils, shea nut butter, ground oats, local honey, aloe vera, vitamin E and essential oils including spearmint, lemon scented eucalyptus, lemongrass, lavender & tea tree, we also added rosemary extract.

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|
| | April/May "Five Ants" was selected to be hung at the Outback Art Prize in Broken Hill. | | |
| | Feb. "Storm Over Broken Stripes" featured in The Australian Artist Magazine. | | |
| 2005 | Nov. "I Dream of Africa Won "Best in Show" at the AGRA Summer Exhibition in Melbourne held at AGRA Galleries Guild House, Camberwell. Also won the People's choice award at the same AGRA Summer Exhibition. | | |
| | Oct "A Cautious Approach" Won "Best in the Exhibition" at the International Nature in Art 2005 Queensland Wildlife Artist Society Inc. held at Logan Art Gallery. Also, won People's choice award at the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia annual exhibition in Melbourne | | |
| | "Tumblebug" A Winner in the Waterhouse Natural History Art Drawing Prize in Adelaide | | |
| 2003 | "Lace Monitor" was a finalist in the inaugural South Australian Museum, Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize held in Adelaide - August | | |
| | "Eye of the Matriarch" was given a Highly Commended certificate at the WASA annual exhibition | | |
| | Chris was asked to draw lodges for Isbindi Africa Lodges at Kruger National Park "Plains Camp", "Rhino Walking Trails", Kosi Bay Nature "Kosi Forest Lodge" and near Zulu Battlefields near Dundee, "Isbindi Zulu Lodge" - September to November - South Africa. | | |
| | Also, to draw for Adrian Gardiner of the Mantis Collection at Kruger National Park, "Jock of the Bushveld". At Shamwari Game Reserve near Port Elizabeth some of their Lodges, "Long Lee Manor", "Bayethe", "Riverdene Lodge" and "Eagles Cragg" and in the Little Karoo at Sanbona Game Reserve, | | |
| | | | "Tilney Manor". |
| | | 2002 | To Zimbabwe to draw three new lodges for Landela at Lake Kariba, "Kiplings", "Fothergill Island" and "Katete". |
| | | 2001 | To Botswana to draw the two new lodges in the Okavango Delta, "Gubena" & "Elephant Valley Lodge". |
| | | 2000 | Chris asked again to return to the Okavango Delta, Botswana to draw the three Walking Trails Camps of "Mantis", "Eden" and "Baobab" Camps for Landela |
| | | 1999 | The Okavango Delta, Botswana, "Xudum" and "Rann's Camp". |
| | | 1998 | Chris was asked to return to Zimbabwe and travel around the Landela Safaris Lodges drawing five lodges. "Gache Gache" at Lake Kariba, "Chokamella" at Hwange, "Sekuti's Drift, and "Masuwe Lodge" at Victoria Falls and "Landela near" Harare. |
| | | 1997 | Chris asked to travel to Zimbabwe for the African Safari Magazine to visit "Pamuzinda" Safaris Lodge out of Harare and to write up about it and to draw the lodge. |
| | | 1997 | Chris asked to design the front cover for the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia 1997 catalogue. He drew the "Eastern Bearded Dragon". |
| | | 1996 | The Limited Edition Print set of four drawings won the Golden Award at the Australian National Printing Awards for 1996 for van Gastels Printers of Adelaide. They also won a silver award at the International Print Awards. |
| | | 1996 | "River Horses" won the Catani Drawing Award at the annual Wildlife Art Society of Australasia Exhibition (WASA) held in Melbourne. The first competition Chris had ever entered. |
| | | | To find out more about Chris' work visit www.wildprints.com.au . |

Creature Feature: Banded Mongoose

The Banded Mongoose (*Mungos mungo*) is a mongoose commonly found in the central and eastern parts of Africa.

Physical characteristics

The banded mongoose is a sturdy mongoose with a large head, small ears, short, muscular limbs and a long tail, almost as long as the rest of the body. Animals of wetter areas are larger and darker colored than animals of dryer regions. The abdominal part of the body is higher and rounder than the breast area. The rough fur is grayish brown, and there are several dark brown to black horizontal bars across the back. The limbs and snout are darker, while the under parts are lighter than the rest of the body. Banded mongooses have long strong claws that allow them to dig in the soil.

An adult animal can reach a length of 30 to 45 cm and a weight of 1.5 to 2.25 kg. The tail is 15 to 30 cm long.

Distribution and habitat

The banded mongoose lives in open savannas, open forests and grassland, especially near water, but also in dry, thorny bushland. The species is common in areas with many termite mounds, that serve as housing and food. The banded mongoose is found in a large part of Southeast and South-Central Africa. There are also populations in the northern savannas of West Africa.

The development of agriculture in the continent has had a positive influence on the number of banded mongooses. The crops of the farmland serve as an extra food source.

Social Behaviour

Banded mongooses live in mixed-sex groups of 7-40 individuals (average around 20). Groups sleep together at night in underground dens, often abandoned termite mounds, and change den frequently (every 2-3 days). The species is unusual among cooperative vertebrates because most females reproduce in each breeding attempt. All adult females in a group enter oestrus around 10 days after giving birth, and are guarded and mated by 1-3 dominant males. Gestation is 60-70 days. Around 70% of adult females in the group carry to term, and give birth together in an underground den. In most breeding attempts, all females give birth on exactly the same day. Each female gives birth to 2-5 pups, average litter size is 4. Pups are kept underground for the first four weeks of life, during which time they are guarded at the den by 1-3 babysitters while the rest of the group goes off to forage. After 4 weeks the pups join the group on foraging trips. Each pup is cared for by a single adult "escort" who helps the pup to find food and protects it from danger. Pups become nutritionally independent at 3 months of age.

Dispersal

Adult females are forcibly evicted from the group when their numbers grow large. Females are evicted by older females and sometimes males. When these dispersing females encounter neighbouring groups they may be joined by groups of subordinate males to start a new group.



Intergroup relations

Relations between groups are highly aggressive and mongooses are sometimes killed and injured during intergroup encounters. Nevertheless, breeding females will often mate with males from a rival group in the midst of a fight. In some locations (e.g., Kenya) banded mongooses have been found in close relationship with baboons, they forage together and probably enjoy greater security as a large group because of more eyes on the lookout for predators. The mongooses are handled by baboons of all ages and show no fear of such contact.

Food

The diet of the banded mongoose consists mainly of invertebrates, including insects (termites and larvae of beetles), centipedes, lizards, snakes, frogs and sometimes mice. They dig up most of the food with their strong claws. Sometimes they also eat roots and fruit. One of their favorite snacks is a bird's egg.

Banded mongooses search for food in small, loose groups. To stay in contact, they use a wide variety of sounds.

Banded mongoose often attack cobras, biting off the head to kill them.

References

Banded Mongoose Research Project: www.bandedmongoose.org

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banded_Mongoose



Post Office Box 637
South Perth WA 6951

Phone: +61 8 9455 6073
Mobile: 0419 956 238

Conservation through action and education

Find us on the Web
www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au
pdmembers@iinet.net.au

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 637
South Perth WA 6951**

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.