



Volume 3, Issue 2

December 2006

Written and edited by
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Painted Dog Conservation Inc

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Registered in Western Australia
24 Earnley Way, Balga WA 6061

Chairman—Gregory Gibbard
Vice Chairman - John Lemon
Treasurer—Richard Watson

Patrons : Dr Luke Hunter
Bradley Trevor Greive



From the Chairman

As 2006 draws to a close I am reminded of the magnificent efforts of the many people and our members who have contributed such a lot to a successful year for PDCInc and the project we provide support to in Africa.

We held our third AGM in March 2006 and I have recently received the Auditors certificate for accounts as at December 2005. As we changed our accounting to line up with the financial year ending June 30 2006 we also requested and have received a Certificate for that period as well. Your associations accounts have now been externally audited up until June 30 2006.

My personal thanks to Dean Ward in South Australia for completing these audits and enabling us to complete the reporting requirements to the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage.

At the October Committee meeting we farewelled Marnie Taggart who had asked to retire from the Committee due to her ever increasing workload. We all wish Marnie the best for the future and thank her deeply for the input she has made to our organisation.

On another note we invited Peter Wood, Perth Zoo's Africa Savannah Keeper to join our Committee to

Perth Zoo—In-situ Conservation

John Lemon and Jon Keates participated in the successful translocation of 16 dogs from Pilansberg in South Africa to the projects Rehabilitation Centre in Hwange in June. Funding for the translocation was provided by a retired Dutch Doctor, George in der Maur who heads up an organisation SOS Wild Dogs in the Netherlands.

John was also instrumental in renew-

ing our MOU with the Zoo for a further three years.

John also obtained further funding which is to be put to the benefit of the Anti Poaching Units in Zimbabwe.

Thanks to Perth Zoo for their continuing commitment to the work of PDCInc.

which he has accepted. Jenny Preston also joins us as our Secretary. With the ever increasing workload on us all we have decided to reduce our newsletters to twice yearly as the issue timeframe does not fit with the two editors travelling commitments. Naturally we will have more content so you can look forward to more pictures of the dogs and activities as they become available. John has been approached to team up with two of our members, Bansi Shah and Mark Galley who run "Conservation Safaris" in Tanzania, as a guest speaker and may possibly lead two safaris in July and August next year. Information may be found on the web at;

www.conservationsafaris.com

Myself, I shall be in Zimbabwe working with the projects staff for three months during 2007.

Our membership summarised below at the close of the year is;

Australia (WA) 122, Interstate 26, Canada 1, France 1, Germany 2, India 2, United Kingdom 4, United States 4 and Zimbabwe 1, a total of 163.

We shall shortly be sending out the membership renewals and look forward to your continued support.



Lycaon pictus "
African Painted Dog



Chris and Margie McClelland have produced a new drawing entitled "Who are You" and are kindly offering a part of the proceeds as a donation to PDCInc.

.Visit their website at www.users.bigpond.com/ and place an order. Limited edition run of 300 prints.

Inside this issue:

Zebra's Restaurant	2
New Clinic & Veterinary Laboratory Monitoring Dogs	
Translocation of Dogs	3
Where Has the Money Gone	4
Umtchibi Pack	
Mashambo Pack	
Education Children's Bush Camp	5
Riding for the Disabled	
Perth Zoo	
Feature—Other Wildlife—Bat-eared Fox	6
Membership	6
(Cont'd from page 6) Feature—Other Wildlife—Bat-eared Fox	7
Objects of the Association & Contact Details	8
Diary, Late news & Donations	8



Zebra's Restaurant

During August, we organised a dinner and talk at Zebra's Restaurant in Bicton. Jon Keates liaised with the venue's owner, Gerald and with Angela Lemon organised the tickets and the format for the conduct of this event. It is the largest event organised by your Committee to date.

Support on the night was provided by Mark Tyler, Marnie Taggart, Helen Pitman, May Core, Dick Watson and Greg looked after the finances. The evening was well received by all the attendees. And a great time was had by all. Nicholas Duncan (SAVE) provided much entertainment with the conduct of an auction. Thank you Nicholas!

The event was not marketed as a fundraiser, rather to increase awareness and to hopefully increase our membership base.

We got it wrong! Of the 110 guests and members, 35 signed up as new members on the night. Income on the evening was \$7,841.60 which left \$3,867.60 banked.

And we forgot a camera!

John Lemon spoke of his work with the project and both Jon and John's involvement in the translocation of the South African Dogs to Zimbabwe. Q&A after the talk was lively.

*CONSERVATION
THROUGH ACTION
AND EDUCATION*

New Clinic and Veterinary Laboratory

The project has commenced construction of a New Clinic and Veterinary Laboratory within their Rehabilitation Facility.

PDCInc has been asked to assist in the funding of this building. The estimated cost of the structure is \$USD18,900 and PDCInc to date has provided \$USD6,000 with a further \$USD6,000 available subject to satisfactory progress in the construction. Greg Gibbard will be in Zimbabwe, May 2007 and an assessment will be made at that date.



The structure consists of poles, wire and concrete walls with fibre roof sheeting. The facility will be self reliant on solar panels and inverters which have been donated by a US citizen who has much experience in major solar installations.

The picture at left shows progress as at June 2006.

Monitoring Dogs

There were two packs that have dogs with collars outside the park or very near the entrance to the National Park which are being very closely monitored for their safety..

Named the "Umtchibi" and "Mashambo" both had denned while Greg was there. Both packs, particularly the Umtchibi have been seen almost daily by the many visitors and volunteers to the project.

The Umtchibi consists of 8 Dogs who had 6 pups in an area that is much frequented by lions. Reports of attack by lions was inevitable and it is known that the pups have not survived although judging by some of the wounds on the adults there must have been a fierce fight with the lions.

The Mashambo consisted of 4 dogs and had a litter of pups of which there is only 1 survivor at this present time.

A third and fourth pack named "Pilansberg 9" or PB9 and PB3 for short, has been released, October, and is being monitored. The project decided to open the gates and it was with some surprise that the whole pack of 16 did not go off together. Indeed 4 of the dogs have since returned to the centre and are the subject of a future release during 2007 with other dogs already held.

The PB9 pack is now 8 dogs, one dog being killed by lions. PB3 is uncertain at the date of writing.



Translocation Of Dogs - News from the Project - P Blinston

Finally, this month, we received the final confirmation that the translocation had been approved and with the paperwork issued, Jon Keates and John Lemon set off to Zimbabwe to collaborate with Painted Dog Conservation Staff including Peter Blinston and Jealous Mpofo, SOS Wild Dog Director George in der Maur, and two ZPWMA representatives to undertake the mammoth task ahead.

May turned into one of those months we will never forget, thanks largely to a single exercise concerning the translocation of 16 painted dogs from South Africa to our Rehabilitation facility in Hwange. A quite exhausting 4-day operation was the culmination of many months' negotiation and frustration. To our knowledge this is the first pack translocation from South Africa to Zimbabwe.

In August 2005 we received a letter from the South African North West Parks Board, asking if we were interested in receiving a pack of dogs from Pilansberg National Park, which were "surplus" to requirements. In fact the letter stated that they had heard that we would be interested. Rather surprised with the "surplus to requirements" aspect, we none the less spoke to the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), who immediately supported the proposal and issued the relevant paperwork within a week. Then we waited, and waited, for the go ahead from South Africa, looking at our crowded diaries, almost on a weekly basis, to see when we could make the trip, if and when we got the go ahead. Months went by, during which time we heard that certain elements in South Africa were suggesting euthanasia for the "surplus" pack!! This strengthened our resolve of course and we remained determined, the translocation taking on more of a rescue mission now in our hearts and minds.

The Pilansberg management clearly wanted the dogs to come to Zimbabwe and the communication channels remained open, euthanasia was not an option to them either.

Finally, this month, we received the final confirmation that the translocation had been approved and with the paperwork issued, Jon Keates and I set off to Zimbabwe. On Tuesday the 30th May we travelled down to South Africa, a 15-hour drive from Hwange to Pilansberg ahead of us. On the way we collected a truck, which had been specially modified, with a cage on the back, suitable for carrying the dogs. The drive was too much, delays at the border and busy traffic on the narrow, unlit roads at night determined that it was not safe to continue and we found a hotel room for the night. Upon reaching South Africa on the Wednesday afternoon, we made further modifications to the truck to ensure that the dogs would be as safe and comfortable as possible.

Another frustrating day of waiting followed as the ZPWMA representatives who were travelling with us had to wade their way through even more red tape. It would have been easy for them to give up but they were as determined as we were and eventually met up with us on the Thursday

evening.

Early Friday morning saw us driving to the facility that was holding the dogs. The South African vet Andre Uys and his team prepared their equipment as we prepared ours, aiming to fit protective collars to each dog at this stage so that we would not have to put the dogs through the stress of a further immobilization prior to their release. The process began, the vet darting each dog in turn and his team bringing them to us, a collar fitted, identification photos taken of each one before they were placed in the back of the truck. After approx two hours we had the 16 dogs in the truck and the vet gave them the reversal injection to wake them up.

Now we could set off on the arduous drive back to Hwange, knowing that we could not find a hotel to rest this time around, even if we wanted to. For the dogs benefit, we had to keep driving as they relax and sleep together if the vehicle keeps moving, however once it stops, they often wake up and can become stressed at being in a relatively confined space.

We reached the border at 10pm and after three hours of queues, more red tape and more queues, we were back in Zimbabwe, with only another 8 hours to go!! A quick refuelling stop in Bulawayo, a cup of coffee and we continued as the sun rose behind us.

We arrived in Hwange at 9.30am, completely exhausted. However the remarkable reception committee immediately revitalized us. The Zimbabwe Minister of Environment, ZPWMA officials from Head Office in Harare and Hwange Main Camp and the national media were all there to greet us. This compared to the fact that we did not meet a single official from the South African National Parks Board during the whole exercise, which was rather surprising and a bit disappointing.

Many people, too many people, are quick to criticize Zimbabwe, however this exercise alone shows the level of commitment towards conservation, which exists within the country and many of its officials. The dogs have settled in well and we will hold them now for two or three months before releasing them into the wilds of Hwange National Park.

In addition, we undertook pack formations of existing unrelated dogs already held in the rehabilitation facility for later release, continued community development work by visiting communal area schools and joining in activities with visiting schools to our Bush Camp Facility, tracking resident packs in Hwange National Park and undertaking maintenance work of the rehabilitation facility itself. Considering the large enclosure is just over 30 hectares in size or almost twice the size of Perth Zoo without including the intensive care clinic and rehabilitation enclosure, we were kept more than busy.

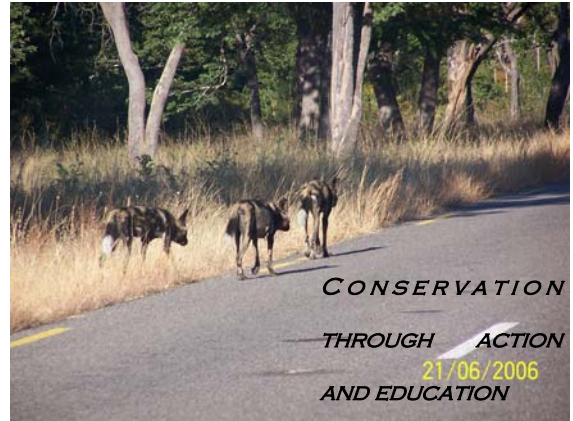


Where has the Money Gone

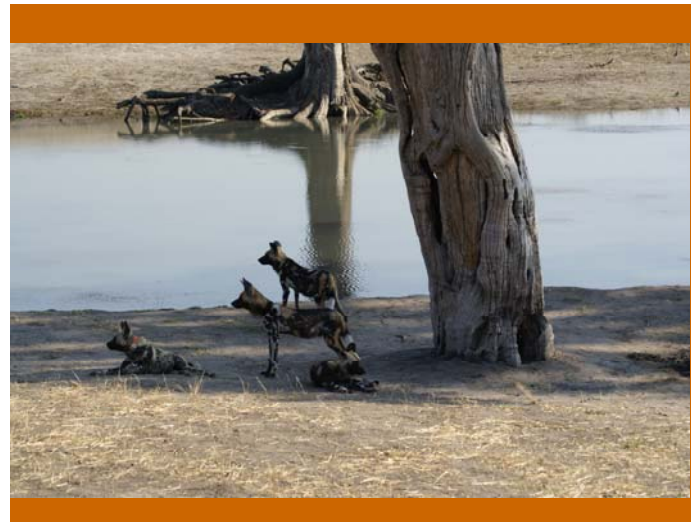
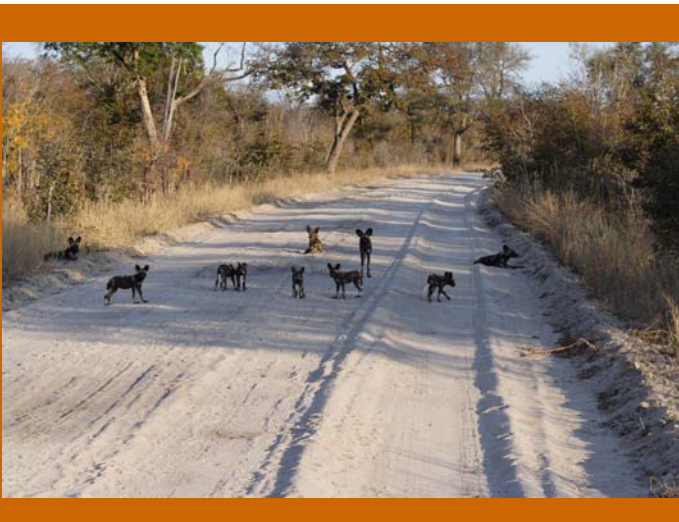
Since 2004 when the Public donations fund was established we have received donations totalling \$33,241.64 from a number of our members and the following organisations; Humane Society International, Perth Zoo, SAVE (NSW)

Of that we have distributed \$21,293.41 as follows;

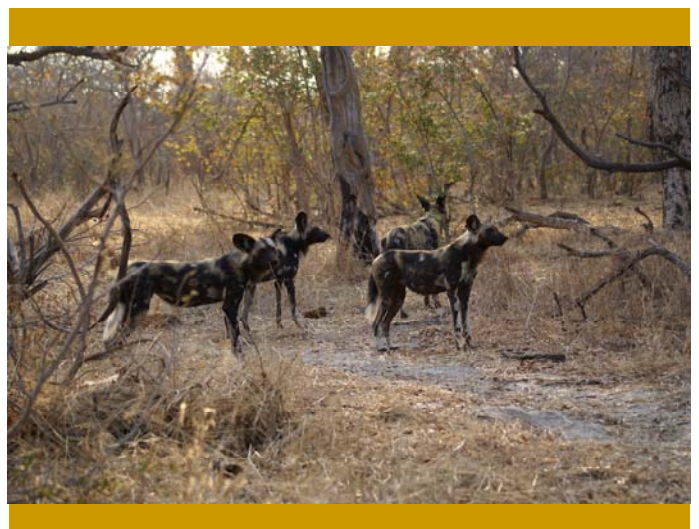
Arts & Craft Centre	\$ 966.01
Anti Poaching Unit	\$3,500.00
Clinic & Veterinary Laboratory Building	\$7,940.31
Contributions to administration expenses	\$1,317.80
Vaccinations and Excess Baggage	
Equipment	\$4,214.09
Rehabilitation Centre	\$3,355.20



Umtchibi Pack



Mashambo Pack





Education - Children's Bush Camp

The Children's Bush Camp Programme provides a free of charge, residential, total immersion, four-day conservation education experience for all grade six students from the primary schools in seventeen of the indigenous communities that border Hwange National Park. The programme introduces students to native species, ecological relationships, the adverse effects of extinction and the need for nature conservation. Concepts are reinforced through hands-on, discovery and creative activities in small groups.

The effect:

With few such alternative educational resources or enrichment opportunities in their lives, the bush camp experi-

ence has turned out to be a highlight in the childhood of local students. Children leave the experience very enthusiastic about nature conservation. They spread their enthusiasm and newfound knowledge to their families, peers and other members of their communities. Parents and community leaders are pleased and grateful for this opportunity for their children. The relationship between the project and the community has been affected in a very positive manner, generating more of a stakeholder attitude toward the project's conservation goals in general, and the protection of the painted dog population specifically. Attendance statistics are on the web at www.painteddog.org.

Riding For the Disabled

PDCInc were invited to set up a stall at their championship games held in September at RDA Murray Mandurah, Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra

Attending were Marnie Taggart and Angela Lemon, face

a couple of months before by John and Mark.

RDWA donated \$400 to us after the event and our mascot was invited to ride a horse in the fancy dress parade.



painters, Mark Tyler, John Lemon and Greg Gibbard.

The invitation was extended after a talk that was given to members of RDWA



Perth Zoo

We were invited to set up an information kiosk by Perth Zoo at the gazebo right next to the Painted Dog exhibit in the African savannah on the long weekend, 7 and 8th October.

Manning the kiosk were Greg Gibbard and May Core and we were visited by several of the DOCENTS. We received positive feedback from zoo visitors

And we managed to hand out approximately 400 pamphlets and answer many questions.

Kathy Starr fed the dogs a



whole carcass on the Sunday and I spoke with the public about their style of feeding.

It was great exposure for us and I am sure we would do it again given another invitation.

The Painted Dogs have grown in numbers by the delivery of 8 puppies to "Collar" and "Evander"



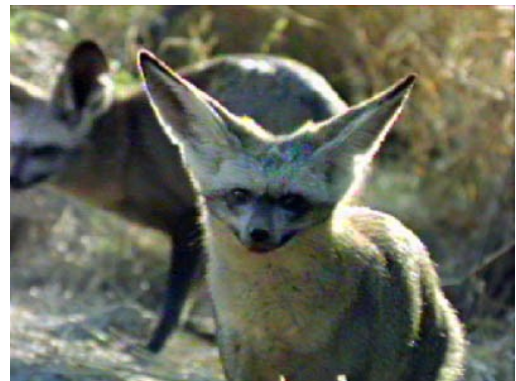
Feature—Other Wildlife—Bat-eared Fox (*Otocyon megalotis*)



Names: *English:* Bat-eared fox, Delalande's fox. *French:* L'Otocyon. *German:* Löffelhund. *Afrikaans:* Bakoor. *Karamojong:* Ameguri. *Kichagga:* Kipara. *Kigogo:* Nchenjeji. *Kikomo:* Mchutu. *Kinyaturu:* Bii. *Kirarnba:* Bili. *Tswana:* mo-Tlthose.

Description: Ears large to 12 cm, teeth insectivorous without differentiated carnassials, extra molars give 46-50 total. Coat grey buff above, paler and more beige below. Black on face mask, muzzle, ear tips, front legs, lower back legs, terminal 35% of tail. Black mid-dorsal stripe.

Reproduction: Time of mating: June-Sept. (Serengeti and Botswana); Jan. in Uganda; appears to be seasonally and locally adjusted so that births occur during the



rains when peak insect densities exist. Gestation: 60-75 days. Litter size: 1-6. Lactation: 14-15 weeks. Age at sexual maturity: 8-9 months, most disperse at breeding season, some young females may stay with their natal group and breed. In these cases cubs are reared and cared for in a communal den and suckled indiscriminately by all the females. Longevity: up to 13 years in captivity.

Social Behaviour: Serengeti groups usually consisted of pairs accompanied by young of that year. More than two adults were regularly seen at breeding dens and polygyny may occur at least occasionally. Breeding dens of neighbouring groups are sometimes clumped in areas of good habitat. Animals usually forage in groups to exploit termites, which occur in clumps. During the day, foxes rest in groups and conduct extensive grooming. In

(Continued on page 7)

Membership

Please welcome the following new members to our association:

Yvette Finlay (VIC), Simon Duffy NSW, Kelly Hobbs VIC, Russell Sheppard NSW, Ruth Hall SA, Kerryn Wood WA, Warwick Angus NSW, Kenneth MacKey Ireland, Eveline Read WA, Andrew Sprott Scotland, Christine Baker SA, Banshi Shah WA, Noel Yip WA, Daniel Noble WA, Clive Pollard WA, Jeff & Ursula Beaton WA, Melanie Croke WA, Anna Mikosza WA, Jennifer Sumpton WA, Judith Winnett WA, Gillian Forrest WA, Derek Smith WA, Michael Cranley WA, Jacky Kentish WA, Lambert Ward WA, Avril Ward WA, Phebe Schofield WA, Anne Manson WA, Ian Gibbons WA,

Yvonne Garnsey WA, Tiziana Bouwhuis WA, Bridie Baseley WA, Shelley Craig WA, Daniel Bennett WA, Emma Gatehouse WA, Wendy Schofield WA, Karen Mason WA, Lesley Baxter WA, Allan Payne WA, Astrid Janes WA, Steven Gruszecki WA, Maree Wrack WA, Nicole Marinho WA, Gillian Bryant WA, Tamagen Lee-Steere WA, Jenny Manson WA, Philip Patterson WA, Peta Simpson WA, Christine Davidson WA, Arlene Sands WA, Jane Hawkins WA, Phyllis Jones WA, Bob Miller SA, Alice Thomas WA, Sandra Miles-Taylor UK, 58Dean Main WA, Cassie Rowe WA, Jane MacLeod WA, Jenny Bryce WA, Michael Colyer WA, Lucy MacLeod WA, Mitchell Farrell

WA, Attwater David WA, David Seegar WA, Desiree Palmer WA, Belinda Cullen WA, Arthur Ferguson WA, Russell Major (WA), Cher McAdam (WA)
Our current membership for

2006 is 163, (122 WA) and includes 15 international members.

Thank you for your continued support.



Flame Lily - Zimbabwe's national wildflower



Feature—Other Wildlife—Bat-eared Fox (*Otocyon megalotis*)

(Continued from page 6)

the Masai Mara and the south-western Kalahari, home range size varies from 0.5 to 3.0 km² with extensive overlap in home range. In the Serengeti, smaller home ranges were observed (0.25 to 2.0 km²) with somewhat less overlap. Population density may reach 28 per km², but usually ranges from just less than 1.0 per km² to 6.0 per km².

Diet: Termites and beetles (adults and larvae) form the majority of the diet in all studies to date. The bat-eared fox is the only canid to have largely abandoned mammalian prey. Termites (*Hodotermes*) can constitute more than 50% of the diet. Vertebrate prey (lizards, mice, etc.) are eaten when available, but they seldom constitute more than 10% of the diet.

Distribution: The distribution of the bat-eared fox is divided into two populations, one from southern Zambia and Angola to South Africa, the other from Ethiopia and south Sudan to Tanzania. In recent times, the fox has apparently extended its range eastward into Mozambique and parts of Zimbabwe and Botswana. A bat-eared fox was sighted in the Chobe National Park, Botswana, for the first time in 1965; they are now locally common in that area. Distribution coincides with that of their major prey item (*Hodotermes mossambicus*).

Habitat: This species prefers open grassland, but can be found in semi-desert and in bush country. The bat-eared fox tends to avoid long grass areas, perhaps due to the risk of predation. In the Serengeti, bat-eared foxes ap-

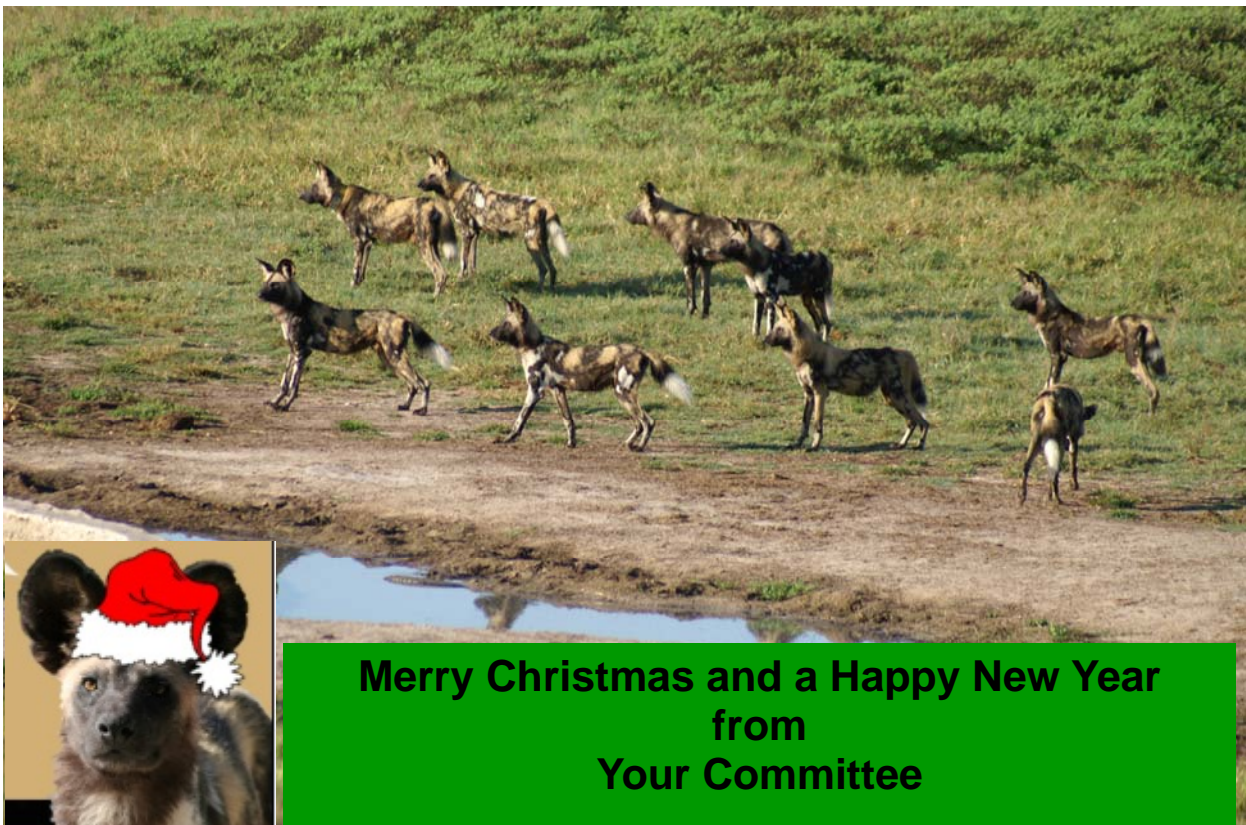
pear to be particularly abundant in woodland boundary habitats. They do not occur on the short grass plains, but are numerous, although hard to see, in the northern woodlands. Numbers seem to be highest where there is a high density of *Hodotermes*, their preferred prey, and bat-eared foxes ranges totally overlap with *Hodotermes* distributions.

Population and Status: Serengeti study: Fluctuations in two study populations due to outbreaks of rabies, which can occur several times a year. Approximately 25% of the study population was affected in each bout. Major population fluctuations have been reported in the Serengeti, Tanzania. During this decline, no major environmental deterioration (e.g. reduction in termite density/numbers) was seen, hence epidemics are the most likely cause of mortality in the Serengeti population. M. Jones reports a decline in the Hwange area, Zimbabwe, in 1985. This decline was coincident with an outbreak of rabies, supporting the suggestion that disease is responsible for population regulation. *Otocyon* coexists with domestic animals. In some areas, populations have proliferated as cattle ranching has increased areas of short grass habitat, thus increasing numbers of harvester termites.

Commercial Use: No commercial use, but hunted in Botswana April to July for pelts by indigenous people.

Other Threats: None known.

Current Research Programmes: Behavioural research by B. Maas in the Serengeti.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from
Your Committee



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 Registered in Western Australia
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 Vice Chairman - John Lemon

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Conservation through action and education

For the diary

- February 2007 :** Committee meeting
- April 2007:** Committee meeting
- May 2007:** Members meeting, film and talk
- June 2007:** Committee meeting
- August 2007:** Committee meeting
- September 2007:** Annual General Meeting 2006/2007
- October 2007:** Committee meeting

Would you like to help

The project in Zimbabwe does **NOT** receive any Government assistance 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 dog.

The objects of the Association are;
 To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Hunting 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.

FIND US ON THE WEB
WWW.PAINTEDDOGCONSERVATION.IINET.NET.AU
EMAIL
PDCINC@IINET.NET.AU

Late news

- January 2007 - Donation from International member, Donald Pedigo
- January 2007 - Two new member applications
- May 2007 - Greg Gibbard to Zimbabwe
- July /August 2007 - John Lemon to Tanzania

We have sold out on snare art and will be expecting a delivery soon during February. Made by artisans at the Arts and Craft centre in Zimbabwe. Please check the website for details.

Here's what to do

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

"Painted Dog Conservation Inc."
 C/- The Treasurer
 10 Blackboy Way
 Morangup WA 6083

Credit cards: (Overseas & 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 PDCInc does not recommend provision of credit details by email, and it will not be requested by PDCInc)

Please photocopy or cut along the line below and mail to the Secretary, address details above.

Thank you for your generous donation

**Circle card Visa / MasterCard Payment

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____ (mm/yy)

Name on Card: _____ **Block Letters only

Amount: \$ _____ : _____ \$AUD / \$USD **Circle Currency Signature _____

Please note that that the entry on your Statement will be "Chris & Margie McClelland, Oxley"

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

The Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated Public Fund is a public fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997

