

# Painted Dog Conservation Inc

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

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

Patrons: Tony Park, Bradley Trevor Greive and Simon Reeve

May 2016



Written and edited by John Lemon, Angela Lemon and Daniel Scarparolo

## From the Chairman

As we sit and type out our much overdue newsletter I am reminded how quickly time passes by.

Sir David Attenborough celebrates his 90th Birthday, 400 years since Shakespeare's death, 100 years since the battle of Somme, 350 years since the Great Fire of London, 75th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, 950 years since the Battle of Hastings and more importantly 12 months since we lost our co-founder Greg Gibbard through a senseless attack.

On the upside, with the autumn rains upon us, the bumper edition will surely help pass the time away.

Our branding continues with a new website, logo and our Facebook page hovering close to 4000 likes!

To our members, supporters and donors thanks for all that you do for us. Without your continued support there is no way possible we could continue to grow and support all of our worthy causes.

In our 13th year of operation we are as focussed as ever and with our amazing trio of patrons Bradley Trevor Greive, Tony Park and Simon Reeve which are helping to take our cause to whole new audiences, the future looks bright.

Hopefully I will see you at one of our upcoming functions. Until then stay safe and long live the Painted Dog.

John Lemon  
Chairman PDC Inc.

## New Website and Logo In Memoriam



2016 is year of change for Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

After 13 years, we bid a fond farewell to our original PDC Inc logo designed by the team at the then BTG studios-thank you to our Founding Patron Bradley Trevor Greive for his continuing support today.

Our new look logo was designed by Italian Artist Anna Rita Centura, who generously donated the original artwork for our event in February, from which the logo was designed. Her amazing "Dawn Till Dusk" sold for over \$2000 and it truly incredible piece of art! In the coming months we will be phasing out our old logo on brochures and merchandise, so please bear with this change.

Thanks also to Kevin Nguyen of Smoov Business Solution for donating his time to create our new website-our domain name is still the same-but you will notice some great changes! Visit us at [www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au](http://www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au).

Don't forget our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages too!

### Dick Watson

PDC Inc was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of yet another Founding PDC Inc Committee Member, Dick Watson.

On 13 January 2016 Dick did what he loved most – jumped on his bike and set off to work. Shortly after leaving his home, Dick was seen to clutch at his chest before he veered off the road. Dick left this life suddenly but we take comfort in that he died at the start of a new day on his bike, enjoying the ride.

Dick played the role of Treasurer on our committee for a number of years. Our condolences to his family and friends and all who knew him. Sadly, this is our second loss of our PDC Inc family with 7 April being the 12-month anniversary of losing Greg Gibbard.

RIP Dick and Greg.



# AWCF Update

## Extra litter of puppies

Surprisingly, one of our painted dog packs in the Savé Valley Conservancy dened twice in 2015.

The alpha female of Splinters Pack, who had seven pups in her first litter in May 2015, became pregnant again late last year (despite five pups from her original litter still being alive), and gave birth to a litter of 10 more pups in December.

As such, the first few months of 2016 were blessed with a bonus set of 10 little pups, all of whom are surviving to date

## Painted dogs booming

The other packs are all doing well as well, and pup survival has so far been fairly

good. The Savé Valley currently has 98 adults and 70 pups (a density of almost 4 adults/100km<sup>2</sup>) and in Gonarezhou we know of at least 75 adults and 40 pups although this is certainly an underestimate at the moment.

Excitingly, many of the alpha females are now showing signs of mid-late stage pregnancy, and we expect our first dens fairly soon!!

## De-snaring painted dogs

In February, Rosemary removed two snares off dogs in the Mapura pack. One adult female had a loose wire around her neck which fortunately hadn't done any damage but the other dog, an adult male, had a very

nasty wire round his back right foot.

The foot was very swollen and causing him to limp in a very painful way. We removed the wire and treated the wound.

Unfortunately he is still limping, but the swelling is going down and we hope he will make a full recovery in time.

## Libraries

Thanks to a collaboration with the Zambezi Schoolbook Project and the Beit Trust we have recently managed to establish a further 32 libraries in schools around Savé Valley Conservancy and Gonarezhou National Park.

This means we now have established libraries in a total of 46 out of the 123

primary schools that we support! This is all linked to the wildlife resource and the benefits to conservation in the long term are numerous.

We have a series of librarian training workshops scheduled for later in the year.

## Scholarship Students

We currently have 21 scholarship students whom we are supporting through secondary schools on 'Predator Scholarships'.

Our oldest student, Misheck Dibha, passed his O-Levels in late 2015 and we're super proud of him.

We're already planning our next field course and leadership training course for our Predator Scholars for later this year.



Top: the first sighting of the new Splinters pups!  
Bottom: Unusual to have camera trap photos of small pups in January!



Splinter's pack in March 2016, totally 32 dogs!





### Game drive truck on its way

We are really excited about the imminent arrival of our Daf 4x4 truck into Zimbabwe.

We will be kitting this out for game drives and it will be based in the Gonarezhou National Park to take students from adjacent schools into the park on game drives and field courses.

This will be a life changing experience for the students and an important part of efforts to change attitudes to wildlife.

With the burgeoning number of painted dogs in the Park, we hope that some students will get to see these magnificent animals in the flesh.

### Film crew

For the last few months, we have had a film crew with us, filming AWCF an

d the painted dogs for a 6-part TV series. They've managed to capture some great things on film, including several painted dog hunts, some de-snaring procedures and of course have documented the bonus litter of pups, which is a very unusual event.

The series should be out in 2017 and we'll keep you posted.

### Human wildlife conflict workshops

We are currently running a series of human wildlife conflict workshops around the Gonarezhou National Park in an effort to gather baseline data on conflict types and severity in order to target interventions.

Although painted dogs are generally a low conflict species, misperceptions and misidentification can lead to them being persecuted unnecessarily so we need to

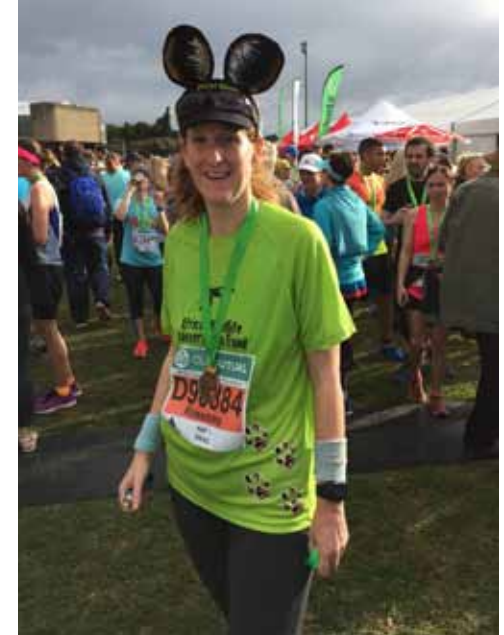
work with communities to help reduce all carnivore conflict and set up verification protocols to ensure the right information is collected and the right mitigation efforts employed.

### Running for wild dogs

On 26 March 2016, AWCF's Rosemary Groom and Jess Watermeyer ran the Old Mutual Two Oceans half marathon, bedecked in painted dog ears, to try and raise some funds for painted dog conservation!

We had a team of 45 runners, all raising money and awareness for the dogs. In total we raised c. \$7,500 of much needed funds!

Finally a HUGE thank you to PDC Inc for all their support – and so lovely to meet John and Ange in Perth in January!



*De-snaring a badly injured painted dog from Mapura Pack; note swelling on injured foot.*



*Top: Gurungweni Primary receives boxes of books to establish a library. Bottom: Mahenya Primary students offload books from our education vehicle.*



*Top: Gawa Primary offload their new shelving for their library. Bottom: Mbeure Primary School students offload shelving for their library.*



*Dr Rosemary Groom (top) and other AWCF runners (bottom) all running for the dogs.*



# Bermano Art Fundraiser

Joel Berman ("Bermano") was born in South Africa and is now a citizen of the USA; Bermano proudly incorporates his African Roots into his vibrant exciting and magical paintings.

"I started painting because I had a dream that I was going to be a huge artist and donate proceeds from my artworks to wonderful causes."

Bermano has been shown in many prestigious galleries in NYC, Dallas, South Africa and London...and has a very successful international career.

Bermano's most current series entitled LIONS is part of his love of wildlife and he is passionate about nature conservation.

"For some reason I love painting Lions so I paint them and there is a 4 month waiting list for my Lion originals. Last week I sold my largest Lion to date its 12 feet by 9 feet and I can't wait to see it up on my clients huge wall".

Bermano's originals start at \$1000 and go up to \$30000 for larger commissioned paintings.

"I feel so blessed to be able to earn a good living out of something I love doing so much"

In exciting news Bermano is currently supporting our friend Kevin Richardson with the sales of limited edition posters of one of his works "Grumpy" – a stunning artwork indeed.

A portion of the sales goes directly to PDC Inc.

You can purchase yours today for \$30 at <https://checkout.shopify.com/9833380/checkouts/dd354628eb9a32a1b6cfbfb2824f93ca?>

We are also excited to announce that Bermano is also working on a Painted Dog, which he will be launching in the coming months and proceeds from the sales of the limited edition posters will be supporting PDC Inc.

Thank you, Bermano!



# Angels Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Greetings fellow PDC Inc members and supporters – it's a pleasure to be back in touch via our newsletter.

For the past eighteen months I've pushed aside a number of projects in order to write one very special book – Penguin Bloom.

For those that haven't heard about Penguin Bloom, it's the incredible and deeply moving true story of the Bloom family, of Sydney's Northern Beaches. After suffering a terrible tragedy while on holidays in Thailand – which left wife and mother, Sam Bloom, paralysed from the chest down and fighting for her life – their once happy home was torn apart by grief, anger and regret. Just when it seemed they were about to lose almost everything they held dear, the Blooms were saved by, of all things, a baby magpie.

It sounds bizarre, I know, but that is exactly what happened. When the family's focus shifted from their own (very real) problems to caring for a helpless injured magpie chick the emotional energy in the Bloom household immediately changed. Suddenly there was a positive and urgent reason for Sam to wake up in the morning; indeed there were things that needed to be done daily and even hourly to keep the little

bird (that the three young boys named "Penguin") alive and well. Far more than just a positive distraction, Penguin unified the family and reconnected them with nature in a truly unique and beautiful way. And by the time Penguin recovered from her injuries, fledged and grew up to be a confident and independent adult bird ready to explore the great unknown on two sturdy wings, Sam Bloom had found new reasons to live and be happy, not to mention a new life purpose (she is now one of the world's fastest KL1 Paracanoe kayak paddlers, and recently represented Australia at the World Championships in Italy).

I am not telling you all this merely to promote a book that I am incredibly proud of (though that is certainly true), but rather to make the point that, even in this modern world, our connection with nature remains profoundly important, and that animals and humans continue to have an extraordinary effect on each other, for better or for worse. If the Bloom family had left the crippled magpie chick right where they found her (in a car-park next to boys' grandmother's home) then it would have died overnight and no one else would know or care that it ever existed. But had they done so they would never have enjoyed the

transformative experience that resulted from caring for this wild bird, watching it heal and grow and eventually become a much-loved member of their family. When Penguin finally flew off into the blue sky to make her own way in the world she left behind a family that was very, very different from the one that initially took her in. At the beginning the Blooms thought they were rescuing Penguin but, in the end, it was actually Penguin who rescued them.

Look, we're all busy people, we each have our share of obligations and problems and we are all fighting our own private battles – some that we can talk about and some we can't. And while everyone acknowledges that participating in wildlife conservation projects is a noble duty, the fact is that many of us don't get around to taking action as often or as fully as we'd like because we have so much on our plate already.

Supporting wildlife conservation is a genuine sacrifice, it requires time, money and energy, and I don't want to pretend otherwise. But Penguin Bloom illustrates just how much you can get back from working with wildlife in need – it's not merely that you'll feel good about yourself because you made a difference, though

## Penguin Bloom

The odd little bird who saved a family



you will and you have – But there are also newfound joys and life-changing moments that you would never otherwise experience. I know this to be absolutely true because I've had the privilege to visit and work with wildlife conservation projects all over the world. Sometimes these projects have gone extremely well and sometimes they haven't (I've shed both blood and tears and endured countless sutures and five treatments for rabies thus far). But every single time I've been a part of a leading conservation project I've made new friends, learned new things and created wonderful new memories that





have made my life richer.

So please consider taking action today, and here's how: First of all, and this is the easy part, please be sure to renew your PDC Inc membership (this is what keeps the lights on and puts petrol in the tanks of our vehicles) and please invite two or more like-minded friends to join you at the next PDC Inc event in the hope that they might become members as well (I'm going to make sure there are autographed copies of Penguin Bloom at our next fundraising silent auction).

And now, here's the next level – please think seriously about how your unique skills, experience, contacts, resources and personal energy can keep PDC Inc moving forward – then simply compose a short email or pick up the phone and call Ange and John and offer them your help. We need donors, we need volunteers, we need experts, we need ambassadors, we need ditch diggers, we need builders, we need all the help we can get. And if for some reason you think you don't have that much to offer, then you're wrong, dead wrong. Penguin's life was saved with an old laundry basket, a cotton bed-sheet and an eyedropper. Enough said.

PDC Inc and our conservation partners throughout Africa are all that stands between survival and extinction for Painted Dogs and a number of other At Risk species.

We don't have Penguin, but we have you, and you are the angel we need right now, so please help us get the job done by taking action as soon as you can. I know you'll be very glad you made the effort.

Cheers!

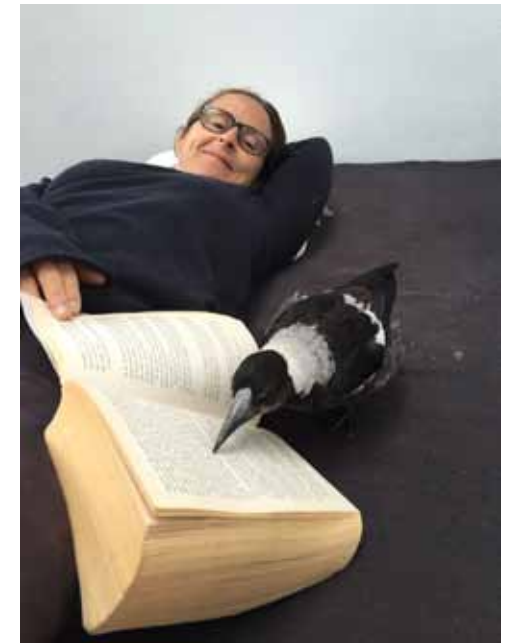
Bradley Trevor Greive AM

Founding Patron

Painted Dog Conservation Inc

*All images are taken from Penguin Bloom – The odd little bird that saved a family. Published by ABC Books, 2016 (www.penguinbloom.com)*

*All photographs by Cameron Bloom, ©2016 Cameron Bloom Photography.*



## CCF Namibia

In March 2016, Laurie Marker of Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) launched her first tour of Australia. This visit included Perth for series of lectures and fundraising events.

Due to John's experience with Cheetah breeding and Studbook management, John has known Laurie for some time and we first met her at an International Cheetah Conference at Shumba Valley Lodge in South Africa in 2001.

We crossed paths again in 2007 on our first PDC Inc field trip to Namibia to work with Robin Lines in Bushmanland. It was on our 700km journey from Windhoek to Tsumkwe, that we stopped in at Laurie's infamous CCF Centre in Otjiwarongo. It was great to meet up with Laurie and see her Centre firsthand.

Unfortunately we could not make it to Laurie's fundraiser here in Perth, but was thrilled with the opportunity to catch up over coffee prior to her flight back to Africa. We had a lovely morning down by the river at Bicton!

Always great to catch up with like-minded conservationists, share ideas and inspirations! Thanks to Ruth Wetter of CCF Australia for organising the events for Laurie.



L-R: Angela Lemon, Ruth Wetter, Jayson McDonald and John Lemon.

## Conservation South Luangwa Update

Both myself and Matt Becker from ZCP were excited and honored to be invited by John and Ange at PDC Inc to attend a fundraising gala in Perth in February. We had such a great welcome and a wonderful time in Perth being hosted by John and Ange, Simon Reeves and Katrina Purich, all staunch supporters of PDC Inc, CSL and ZCP. We can't thank everyone enough especially John and Ange for all the effort that went in to arranging the night and our whole trip out there.

SLCS has just rebranded and we have evolved in to Conservation South Luangwa (CSL) with a new logo. We are also in the process of designing a new website and other materials and hope it will be well received and that you like it.

2016 looks like it will be a mammoth year with many challenges ahead. The Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) has also transitioned back in to the Government and now falls under the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, and is called the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Services. During any transition there are teething problems and operational funding remains an even greater challenge for 2016.

### CSL Painted Dog Anti-Snaring team

Wire-snaring poaching by-catch continues to be the most immediate and gravest threat to Painted dogs. In 2014 a total of 10 Painted dogs were snared, however in 2015 only 4 dogs were reported with snares, sadly three of which died (one of which was euthanized for humane reasons). However, this is still a significant reduction in snaring of wild dogs which has had direct benefits on their survival rate. Hot Springs pack, one of Luangwa's largest and most productive packs, was decimated by snares in 2014, losing an alpha



female and a pup. In addition to those 2 fatal snares, the pack accrued 5 more snaring incidents for a total of 7 snaring incidents in one pack alone. Thankfully the pack had a collared individual and with aerial support, dedicated field effort, and collaboration with ZAWA and ZCP the additional 5 individuals were safely de-snared and the pack is now the most successful in the area.

Snaring levels in 2014 were far higher than in 2015. Reports of snared animals from all species in 2014 were consistent throughout the dry season and anti-snaring patrol effort was continuous. Continuous patrol effort in 2015 was also maintained and much of the focus of anti-snaring patrols and short patrols were concentrated in areas of wild dog activity. Rainfall in the 2015 / 2016 wet season has been minimal, and a dry year ahead will



no doubt mean higher levels of snaring and poaching in general as farmers harvest will be unproductive. This means additional focus on anti-snaring patrols is needed and we have a lot of work to do this year.

Rachel McRobb



# Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust Update

2016 is rolling out well so far, and it's an exciting one for us all at Chipembele. We are expanding our geographic outreach and from May we will be teaching conservation at 17 local schools (previously it was just 6). We are currently training in-house 4 new Community Conservation Educators for 4 months. They will then work in a particular zone, which is also the area in which they live and know well. They will teach in a different school 4 afternoons of the week. This is in addition to our regular conservation education programme in local schools every day of the school week and students visiting our Centre twice a week. Hopefully it will all lead to a significant increase in knowledge and passion for conservation amongst the youth and community that live close to South Luangwa National Park.

Kennedy Mulenga, who is one of our Conservation Education team members, was sponsored to the Southern African Wildlife College in 2015 for a year's course

on Nature Conservation, Implementation and Leadership. On his return to work in January this year he was promoted to Senior Conservation Educator and is responsible for supervising the 4 new Educators. He was also selected as one of 30 Youth aged 18 to 15 years from 1000 applicants around the world to attend the first ever week long Global Youth Forum for People and Wildlife in South Africa in September 2016.

The Forum is being held immediately prior to the world's biggest conservation gathering, the 17th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) 24th September to 5th October 2016 in Johannesburg, so he could meet some interesting people and become involved in some very interesting discussions. Go, Kennedy!

Our animal rehabilitation programme has also kept us on our toes, with 3 monkeys and 1 yellow baboon in various stages of rehabilitation, but also 2 very young orphaned vervets, one of whom (Jacky) had

her leg amputated after being hit by a car. She made a remarkably quick recovery and is now very feisty. She doesn't like to be handled by humans (who can blame her?) but gets on well with all the other primates and is as mobile as them all!

In early March a two week old puku was rescued after being stuck in mud that was up to her nose. She was brought to Chipembele, exhausted and dehydrated. She was unable to even lift her head and we feared for her survival. We named her Pixie and over the following days she slowly recovered. She is now leaping around like a spring lamb and head butting our legs for milk!

We also have a tiny squirrel called Twiggy who was brought to us with her eyes still closed but they are now open and she is avidly exploring her new world. So far this year we have also rehabilitated 2 orphaned scrub hares and a juvenile red-faced mousebird (children had pulled out some of the flight feathers and all of the tail feathers but thankfully they regrew).

For those of you who know about Douglas the hippo, he is now 3 years old and is doing well. However, in the space of the last 4 months has been seriously attacked twice by lions, the last time leaving deep puncture wounds across his face. As it is the rainy season and the Luangwa River is high he spends most of his time chomping on the fresh green grass, communicating with the wild hippos or getting close to them in the river. He has received a few flesh wounds from large males, but that is a rite of passage for juvenile males and, bless him, he is trying hard to join them!

Thanks to all at PDC Inc. for all your continued support.

Anna and Steve, and the Chipembele Team



*The new expanded conservation education team.*



*Kennedy Mulenga.*



*Pixie puku.*



*Yellow baboons, Galaxy and Cosmas, with vervet Mica.*



# PDC Inc. Gala Dinner

On 18 February 2016, PDC Inc was thrilled to host its first event for 2016 – a Gala Dinner at Willowpond Reception Centre in Canning Vale.

What a special night indeed!

Our fantastic MC was our Patron Simon Reeve, whose passion for Africa is truly inspiring.

Simon recently spent some time in Africa with our other guests, Dr Matt Becker from the Zambian Carnivore Programme, and Rachel McRobb from South Luangwa Conservation Society (now known as Conservation Luangwa).

Last but not least was our other Patron, Tony Park, with the launch of his newest creation, *An Empty Coast*.

Eighty-five guests joined us for a three-course meal and learnt about not only the challenges that Matt and Rachel face first hand in the field, but also of the great work that they do.

The auction was a resounding success, with over \$30,000 raised from items purchased on the night including accommodation at Welgedacht Lodge in South Africa, Shenton Safaris and Norman Carr Safaris in Zambia, a name in Tony Park's next book, artwork by Nathan Furlazzo, Sally Edmunds, Anna Rita Centura...and much, much more!

Thank you to Air Mauritius for the provision of the airfares which enabled us to host Matt and Rachel, and also to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at our next event.



*Each guest received a special "Doggy Bag"*



*Some of the auction items on display*



*PDC Inc patron Tony Park in action*



*John, Ange and Patron Simon Reeve*



*L-R: Patron Simon Reeve, Matt Becker, Ric Dunlop, Rachel McRobb, Angela Lemon, John Lemon, Wayne Hamilton, Carol Shannon, Tony Park*



*Artist Sally Edmonds (Military Art Program) (R) handing her painting "The Light" with founder and director Leza Howie, to our patron Tony Park.*



*Zambian Carnivore Programme Director Matt Becker*



*Conservation South Luangwa CEO Rachel McRobb*



*Simon Reeve inspiring the crowd*

# Karoo Wildlife Centre, South Africa

Two years ago, we got to know Chris Mercer and his partner Bev Pervan through the rescue of little George and Yame from Spain to their forever home at Kevin Richardson's Sanctuary in South Africa.

Many of you know Chris and Bev through their incredible work and as the founders of CACH International, the Campaign Against Canned Hunting. They also previously did wildlife rehabilitation in the Kalahari, captured in their publication, *Kalahari Dream*.

Last year Chris and Bev used their life savings and began building their dream home – a sanctuary in the Klein Karoo area of South Africa where they could continue their life's work of CACH and also the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife, the Karoo Wildlife Centre.

Sadly in late 2015, Bev was diagnosed with cancer, which spread quickly and tragically she passed away on 30 April 2016.

Our love, thoughts and prayers go out to Chris Mercer, and all family friends at this time. We know how much finishing their rehabilitation centre meant to both Chris and Bev, so through personal donations and an online fundraiser, PDC Inc donated funds to ensure the remaining enclosures could be seen through to completion before Bev passed away. Thank you to everyone that supported this initiative.

We were touched when Chris sent us some photos of Bev working on a "thank you sign" on one of her better days, which will be displayed proudly at the Karoo Wildlife Centre.



*Top: Bev working on the signs  
Middle: PDC Inc sign proudly displayed at Karoo Wildlife Centre  
Bottom: Enclosures fully finished.*





# Marini Furlazzo's Art

PDC Inc thanks Nathan Furlazzo of Marina Furlazzo for his generosity at our recent events – our Gala Dinner in February and our online auction to celebrate Dr Jane Goodall's 25th anniversary of her Roots & Shoots Program. Nathan also donated all of the greeting cards in the "Doggy bags" for our recent guests at our Gala Dinner, and also limited edition prints for our auctions.

Marini Furlazzo is based in Melbourne, Australia, and works alongside not-for-profit organisations to support wildlife conservation around the world.

Its founder and artist, Nathan Furlazzo, shares his love of nature and wildlife through his intricate pen and ink illustrations, aiming to capture the imagination of people in a way that inspires them into active conservation of these species. Available for purchase as limited edition giclée prints and luxury greeting card sets, all are printed in Melbourne. Nathan's Journals are also sold in Officeworks, features in *The Age* online gift shop, and his greeting cards also featured in "The Oscars" Doggy Bags last year.

We are pleased to announce that PDC Inc is now partnering with Nathan. He is designing a commissioned piece for us, and once completed part proceeds of sales of the prints, cards and other items will go to PDC Inc. The original will also make an appearance at one of our upcoming events. Watch this space for updates!

Look closely and you'll see his art comprises the flora found in the area where each animal originates. It explores the connection between flora and fauna; however, one of our favourites is "Buddha of The Bush" – a Koala at first glance, but then you see there are other Australian fauna species in there too! Our Painted Dog will be made in this style.



# Patron Update from Tony Park

As always it was great to attend PDC Inc's fundraiser in February and hear of the fascinating work being done by Matt Becker and Rachel McRobb in Zambia.

The evening was especially good as I was able to introduce the people from PDC Inc. to another worthy West Australian based charity that I've recently been doing some work for.

One of the artworks auctioned at the PDC Inc. fundraiser was a breathtaking pastel original work done by local artist Sally Edmonds who has been giving her time to the Military Art Program.

The military art program was started by Leza Howie whose husband and I served together in Afghanistan in 2002.

Leza has cottoned on to the idea of using art classes to help military veterans deal with some of the negative effects of their service, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Leza asked me if I would do a writing seminar for veterans of Afghanistan, Vietnam and other conflicts, and I was delighted to do so.

Knowing of my love of Africa Leza also asked me if she could use some of my wildlife photographs as inspiration for some of the veterans' art classes.

I sent a couple of painted dog pictures and Sally Edmonds, who has been teaching diggers to paint and draw, did her own wonderful rendition of one of a group of pups I had seen in the Kruger Park.

She called the work 'The Light' and it's an apt title given how skillfully she's captured Africa's morning golden hour in the eyes and coat of the young pup.

The Military Art Program, on behalf of Sally, donated this wonderful work to PDC and it was auctioned on the night for a very tidy and worthwhile sum.

I was very pleased that two very worthy causes were able to work together and that Sally's brilliant work was showcased on the night.

I'm off to Africa again in mid-April for another six months and this year will see my 13th novel, *Red Earth*, set in Zululand, released in October.

Cheers

Tony Park

tonyparknews@gmail.com

www.tonypark.net

facebook: tonyparkauthor

twitter: @tonyparkauthor



# One Fight. Unite. RAGES. Campaign



The “One Fight. Unite. RAGES” campaign is a global movement that is raising awareness of global issues by uniting communities, groups and individuals together in a single unified voice.

Dr Jane Goodall is the Patron of RAGES (Rotarians Action Group for Endangered Species), and Perth local Artist, Paula Wiegink, was responsible for the iconic painting “Tears of the Rhino”, which has become a symbol of this campaign. A poster of this image is travelling the world, with numerous celebrities and high profile conservationists signing the poster and pledging to make a difference to the world and encouraging all others to do so.

It is fantastic to see celebrities using their status as a platform to inspire their followers to make a change and “Say No” to animal cruelty and wildlife extinction.

To date many celebrities have made this pledge including Dr Jane Goodall, Sir David Attenborough, Jean Claude Van-Damme, Russell Brand, Kevin Richardson, Lion Aid, Kelly Slater, The Black Mambas, Damian Mander, Nicholas Duncan, Seal, Wolf Mountain Sanctuary, Virginia McKenna, Brian May, Jeremy Irons, David Pocock, Michael Fassbender, Ricky Gervais and many more...and most recently Simon Le Bon (a personal favourite of Ange’s!)

In 2015, PDC Inc was honoured to be asked to be part of the “One Fight. Unite. RAGES” campaign and signed the poster pledging our commitment to “Say No” and also thrilled to announce that our Patron Simon Reeve, is also now on the campaign!

*Clockwise: John and Ange signing the poster; the recent campaign update including Sir Peter Blake and Noam Chomsky; Simon Le Bon (Duran Duran).*





# PDC Inc. visit to South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe by Angela Lemon

John and I were thrilled to return to Africa in October 2015 for a whirlwind trip of 12 days! For me, it had been 6 years since visiting the Dark Continent, so needless to say I was eager to go back!

We started our journey in South Africa, staying at Welgedacht Bushcamp where Kevin Richardson's Sanctuary is located. Not only was it great to catch up with Kevin and his family, but to meet all of his beloved lions and hyena was truly remarkable. We witnessed Kevin going for a walk with the beautiful Meg and Amy (who killed a wild Bushpig along the way which was great to see) In particular, it was a special moment to meet lion cubs "George and Yame" who

were't so little anymore! Many of you will remember when they were first found on the streets of Spain in the cub petting industry, underweight and very ill. Thanks to PDC Inc Supporters we were able to raise \$11,000 to contribute to getting them to Kevin's Sanctuary.

In addition, we were also able to provide Kevin with well needed Contraceptive implants for his lion and hyena, and some two way radios for the Sanctuary.

Our next stop was Lusaka in Zambia, where John (as Chairman of Zambian Carnivore Programme) was to attend the AGM at WWF headquarters. It was great to meet the whole ZCP Board and was a proud



Top: Kevin with George and Yame.  
Bottom: John handing over the Contraceptive implants to Kevin.



Top: Kevin letting Meg and Amy out for their enrichment walk. Bottom: Matt Becker and John outside WWF headquarters.



Top: At the entrance to the rehab Centre with the PDC team. Middle: The ZCP Board. Bottom: Ange with Jealous Mpofu in Zimbabwe.



Top: John standing proudly at the rehab centre he built 13 years ago. Bottom: Handover of vehicle equipment to Last Mhorze



moment to realise what a difference PDC Inc contributions make to the frontline work that they do.

Finally, we landed in Zimbabwe, and were met by Peter Blinston and Last Mhoroze from Painted Dog Conservation in Hwange. We were also able to handover necessary vehicle equipment for the field. It truly felt like "going home" getting back to the beautiful bush. We spent each day out "dogging" from early morning, and were thrilled to see the Painted Dogs every day we were there!

And of course, it was fantastic to see our long time friend Jealous Mpofu and other PDC staff that we first met 16 years ago.

The Rehabilitation Centre that John built 13 years ago is still standing and in use today, which is a great testament to everyone involved.

And it was just lovely to see "John" the Painted Dog that "our" John originally helped rescue 13 years ago as well. It was also an opportunity for us to say a final goodbye and pay our respects to our friend and colleague Greg Gibbard who was murdered on site 12 months ago.

We are looking forward to our return trip later this year



*Paying tribute to murdered friend and colleague Greg Gibbard.*



*John, Ange and Jealous out radiotracking in Hwange.*



# 25th Anniversary of Dr Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Program

In 2015, Painted Dog Conservation Inc was honoured to be included in the One Fight. Unite RAGES campaign in the UK, which is a worldwide awareness creating campaign, uniting all of us in how we can make a positive change together.

The patron of this campaign is Dr Jane Goodall, whom PDC Inc has great admiration and respect for. Dr Goodall created the Roots & Shoots Program 25 years ago with 12

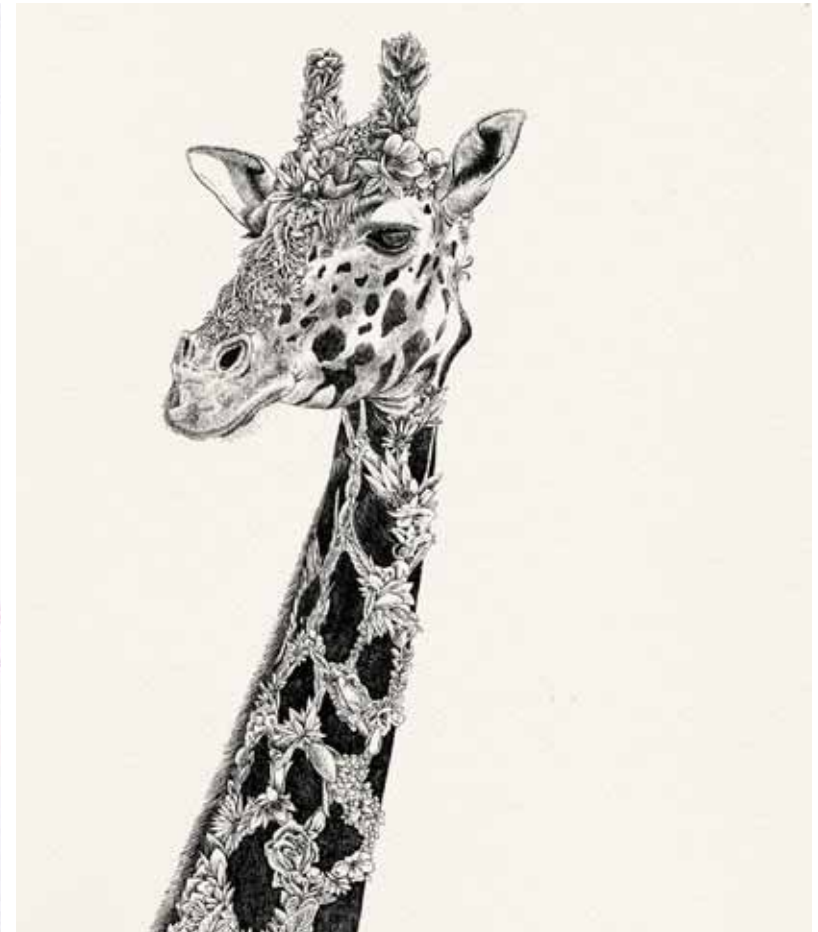
Tanzanian high school students who wanted to tackle urgent problems they witnessed in their community. Roots & Shoots groups are now making positive change in over 130 countries around the world.

Therefore, to join in the celebrations of the incredible 25th Anniversary of the Roots & Shoots program, we were honoured to host a global online auction to raise well deserved funds to support this, the Jane Goodall

Institute's environmental and humanitarian Youth Program. Happy Anniversary Jane!

On offer were a variety of artworks, photos, prints and African jewellery by Artists including Nathan Furlazzo, Amanda Weatherlake, Richard Symonds, Sam Clark, Mulberry Mongoose and much more.

We are thrilled to announce that we raised over \$3,000 for the cause-so thank you for your support.



# Patron Update from Simon Reeve

First up a big thank you to all those who attended the wonderful fund raiser back in February (dammit time flies) with Rachel McRobb and Matt Becker and of course Tony Park, on his new book. It was a seriously incredible result with the money raised. As we all know there are so many organisations who would love a slice of it!

Great to finally meet Tony and wow, what a conservation power couple are Rachel and Matt. Between PDC Inc and those two, if I won a million dollars tomorrow, most of it would be going their way. What they all achieve between Perth and Zambia, with the Carnivores Project and South Luangwa Conservation Society is nothing short of phenomenal.

The thing that strikes me about the way they (Ange and John) work together and work in with the Zambia connections and indeed Jane Goodall, Kevin Richardson, CACH and their tireless efforts to stop canned hunting, is that it's highly organised and really well co-ordinated. There are always target specific projects that supporters can identify and know that's exactly where the money is going. I am becoming increasingly cynical about larger charities these days that ask for money or declare – We Need Your Help! – I can think of a great many sadly – where there is no focus and little accountability.

Rhinos need your help, Elephants Need Saving ... Donate Now! And thousands of people here and around the world dive in without asking questions. I have been guilty of this many times in the past myself.

I have friends currently putting together what stands to be a ground breaking documentary called #Disunitythefilm around the efforts to save rhinos and the

vexed issue of legalising the trade in horn. There are more than 400 rhino NGO's around the world, growing weekly in number, being supported by donations. This is just for rhino projects. The money being wasted, the egos involved and the petty arguments between organisations is a crime in and of itself. My point? Stay small with your choice of charity. Know the people involved. See the projects they support and hear from the people on the ground who they help. No smoke and mirrors, no obfuscation, nothing up my sleeve... just straight out passion, hard work and honest enterprise, helping the great cause of conservation. And as we always say, seeing that cause in the context of not just animals, but people as well.

On that last note, a special nod to the man and the safari company that have long supported PDC Inc and also ZCP and SLCS. One of the finest men I have met, fighting the good fight and maintaining his integrity and sanity along the way. Andy Hogg and The Bushcamp Company are front and centre in so many wonderful projects, it would take another newsletter to list them all. They deserve our support in return. Mfuwe Lodge and the bush camps are places full of happy and well respected employees from the top down. Ange and John can help steer you in Andy (and Amy's) direction for your next safari. No individual and no safari operation in Africa does more to contribute to the betterment of local people in the cause of conservation. That's a big call, but I would stake my life on it.

There you go. The year flies by, Africa still has its myriad issues, but there are so many good stories and good people who give a



damn about its future, it makes the fight worthwhile. As a former Australian polliwog

once said ... "Don't let the Bastards win". Thanks again good folk. Simon



# Zambian Carnivore Programme Update



Dear PDC Inc. Supporters,

Rachel McRobb and I have just returned from a fantastic trip to Perth in February for a joint fund-raiser with PDC Inc. It was a hugely successful trip and so great to see everyone—many familiar faces and a lot of new ones as well, in an ever-growing conservation effort through PDC Inc.

We were able to raise vital funds to continue our collaborative work in Zambia as well as spend quality time with John and Ange and the array of PDC Inc. patrons, members and collaborators in and around Perth.

To see everyone in Australia's commitment and dedication to African wildlife conservation, often despite so many people rarely, or if ever, having the chance to enjoy and experience it, was profoundly inspiring.

We are humbled and energized by your generosity, and have returned to Zambia, kicked the remaining beach sand off our toes

and gotten back to work!

Lots of news to share as we completed another dry season and are in the middle of the rains.

Once again on behalf of everyone, especially the dogs, Thank You!!

Matt

## Dog Update for Zambia

The 2015 season was a banner year for Luangwa wild dogs, with the highest ever recorded numbers in our intensive study area, despite heavy snaring in 2014.

Sightings were fantastic again, as evidenced by multiple PDC Inc members during their visits in the early and late dry season.

In Kafue the news is less promising as we continue to experience heavy snaring impacts but breeding packs continue to be recorded throughout the ecosystem and the presence of PDC Inc supported wildlife



Dr. Kambwiri Banda (below) and Johnathan Merkle (L) train Conservation Biologist Trainee Lameck Sikala on lion immobilization procedures

vet Dr. Kambwiri Banda was essential to respond to reports of snared dogs and other wildlife as well as to maintain a collared study population which allowed us to follow packs across the vast Kafue wilderness.

In Liuwa we continued to receive sightings reports of dogs in the north but to date no dogs have recolonized the intensive study area since the dissolution of the Sausage Tree pack.

Concerning documentation of rabid domestic dogs and unconfirmed reports of



Top: The CSL/ZCP plane operating across the Luangwa. Bottom: ZCP's Luangwa Wet Season Manager Henry Mwape tracking dogs and lions

rabid wild dogs necessitate dramatic action for disease control.

## Conservation Biologist Training Programme

The PDC Inc. support for our Conservation Biologist Training Programme continued through the dry season and into the rains and we were able to bring on several more students onto each of our projects who will be employed as full-time field researchers for the 2016 season.

These include three secondary school Conservation Club graduates and a Copperbelt University graduate, all of whom have been intensively trained in all aspects of field research and operations.

The interest in this programme has rapidly increased and it is currently one of our most exciting new initiatives as we welcome entire cohorts of aspiring Conservation Biologists onto the project each year.

### Aerial Support

With the wet season upon us aerial support continues to be critical in monitoring dogs and lions across the Luangwa as well as in conducting surveillance and other anti-poaching operations.

We continued to keep our CSL/ZCP plane in the air through the generous support of PDC Inc.

### Scientific Papers—ZCP and International Large Carnivore Experts Collaborate on Hunting Policy Paper

With large carnivore hunting policies on the global radar, ZCP helped lead a paper in Science in 2015 evaluating hunting policies using ecological theory and data.

The paper, led by Dr. Scott Creel of Montana State University, was co-authored by an international group of large carnivore ecologists with expertise on wolves, lions, tigers, sharks, and dingos.

Using current US wolf hunting policies as an example, the paper made several key points on the need for revisions in carnivore hunting policy.

Once again PDC Inc. support for this research was critical, given ZCP's long-term studies of lions in Zambia contributed heavily to the paper's findings and recommendations.

Access the full article at: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/350/6267/1473>

### The Perentie Arrives!

In 2015 PDC Inc. donated a Land Rover Perentie to ZCP's operations.

Dubbed by many as the best Land Rover ever made, this former Australian military vehicle made the voyage from Perth to the Luangwa valley over the course of several months and massive amounts of mind-bending logistics spearheaded by John and Angela!

In addition to a strong field vehicle, the Perentie carried with it dozens of HF radios, charging bays and base stations from Perth Zoo which will be used by ZCP, SLCS, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (formerly ZAWA) and other collaborators.

The Perentie is currently undergoing some



Top: ZCP's Luangwa Manager Johnathan Merkle with the Perentie in Lusaka, day-dreaming of bush-bashing in the Luangwa. Bottom: The HF radios, chargers and base stations successfully delivered to the Luangwa, displacing Barto from his bed!

additions to make it into even more of a bush machine and is the envy of Land Rover aficionados in the country!

### Support Behind the Scenes

With three long-term projects on five



Top: ZCP Kafue Manager Caz Sanguinetti (R) helps install our new 300 tdi engine in one of the more 'tired' field vehicles. Bottom: The newly constructed mechanic's pit at ZCP headquarters greatly improves our ability to service and repair our field vehicle fleet

carnivore species across the country there are a lot of things that need to happen behind the scenes to keep things running.

While these may not be the most glamorous aspects of our work they are equally, if not more, important to maintaining our operations.

The PDC Inc support has been critical for this, with funding across an array of items every year that make work run a whole lot smoother.

We are truly grateful and indebted for your continued generosity!



Top: Vital tools for Kafue operations. Bottom: Henry Mwape (L) and Lameck Sikala inventory Land Rover parts for the Luangwa and Kafue field vehicles.





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

### **The Object of the Association is:**

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

### ***Conservation through action and education***

**Find us on the web: [www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au](http://www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au) | [pdmembers@iinet.net.au](mailto:pdmembers@iinet.net.au) | [www.facebook.com/PaintedDogConservationInc](https://www.facebook.com/PaintedDogConservationInc)**

### **Would You Like To Help?**

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

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

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

### **Here's What to Do**

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

Painted Dog Conservation Inc

C/- The Treasurer

Post Office Box 637

South Perth WA 6951

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

## **Major Sponsors**

