Our committee for 2010 did a great job and I must thank
the outgoing committee members Lorraine Dunn and Wayne Monks for their efforts and a special mention to Tracey Bernasconi (who continues on the committee as Treasurer) for her amazing efforts during 2010.

On Monday 25 October we held our Annual General Meeting at Perth Zoo. A great night was had by all and thanks to the assistance and ‘quit wit’ of Nicholas Duncan, a mini-auction of various items was held which raised $750. A barbeque and drinks followed with the night’s activities ending around 8.30–9pm.

I am please to advised that the new PDC Inc committee for 2011 is as follows: - John Lemon (Chairman), Angela Lemon (Vice-Chairman), Tracey Bernasconi (Treasurer), Maxene Kowaleski (Secretary), Mark Tyler, Kathy Starr, John Trevillian and Peter and Bec Wood as general committee members.

Our membership base is continually growing and their support is priceless. Since our last newsletter I would like to welcome Life Members Tracey Bernasconi, Ursula Beaton, Gill Brown, Poonam Dhanwaty(India), Harshwardhan Dhanwaty (India), Nicholas Duncan, Chris Jones, Robert Livingstone-Ward, Carol Shannon and Mike Palmer (Honorary Life Member).

In addition, I would like to welcome general members: - Leah Austin, Maxene Kowalewski, Chris Mitchell, Peter Cliff, Peter Kraat, Jason Henry, Rachael Thomas, Brooke Armour and Sharni Miller.

I wish all our members a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year and look forward to the year ahead with your support.

Best Wishes
John Lemon, Chairman, PDC Inc.
**Zambia 2010**
*By John Lemon Chairman and Angela Lemon Vice-chairman PDC Inc.*

After a massive year of fundraising, lectures and the inevitable paper work it was time to head back out into the field to see firsthand how the projects were developing.

With Angela by my side for the first time in three years we headed off to join the Zambian Carnivore Programme, only three days from returning from Canberra for the fundraising night at National Zoo also featured in this newsletter.

On route we undertook our yearly pilgrimage and visited our good friends at De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre and enjoyed the infectious laughter and mateship of Alan Strachan and his partner Linda for a few days.

Next stop Zambia! Arriving at the headquarters of the Zambian Carnivore Programme in Mfuwe, based on the banks of the Luangwa River, it quickly became apparent that the Lush, jungle backdrop I experienced last year was now a distant memory due the rains being late and preceded by an extended harsh dry spell.

The usual Mopane Trees stood like ghosts on the Landscape. Were we in the same country?

Since ramping up our support in Zambia, it has always been very refreshing to witness first hand the fantastic collaboration between the projects we support in the South Luangwa Valley i.e. Zambian Carnivore Programme, South Luangwa Conservation Society and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust.

We spent our time in Zambia staying at the “Dog Camp” (headquarters to the Zambian Carnivore Programme) on the banks of the South Luangwa River-it was a nice change staying in a tent rather than bush camping in a swag! Wildlife in camp was a daily occurrence - visitors included elephants, baboons, vervet monkeys, hippos, bushbuck and leopard!

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Our first task during our stay was to try to rehabilitate “Trevor”—a newborn Bushbuck, which had been attacked by baboons. Unfortunately, he had been left to fend for himself for 2 days after the initial attack, which certainly impacted on his resilience. After a few days of bottle feeding, Trevor eventually succumbed to the infection he had developed from the bites he received.

For our first few days, we were in the hands of Chapuma,
Top and Above: “Kaingo” Pack in a dry river bed

“Hot Springs” Pack yearlings on an Impala kill.

Thousands of recovered snares

Lioness feeling the Heat

Rachel McRobb, Angela and John at South Luangwa Conservation Society Headquarters

Anna Tolan Director and Founding Trustee of Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust showing Angela the new Student Library and Computer Centre that they are building at Mfuwe Secondary School
Field Assistant with ZCP. Though plagued by regular vehicle breakdowns we were able to cover a lot of ground and get back into the swing of things very quickly.

During our stay, we tracked Lion prides and Painted Dog packs on a daily basis. We were fortunate enough to see the “Kaingo” Pack first hand (this is the pack that members/non members can adopt through PDCInc) and another resident pack of the South Luangwa National Park - The “Hot Springs” Pack.

With the extremely dry weather, dead or dying herbivores were plentiful. On the flip side, their misfortune made for easy pickings for the Carnivores who all seemed to be cashing in on the current situation.

The Zambian Carnivore Programme is currently undertaking research to analyse the age classes of the herbivores that are dying in the local area-this is being done by the collection of teeth and hair samples from the carcasses.

To observe the growth in the Zambian Carnivore Programme over the past twelve months was fantastic. Dr Matt Becker and Egil Droge have done an amazing job at expanding into new areas such as Liuwa Plains National Park, Bangwela Swamps and Kafue National Park, whilst consolidating their efforts in South Luangwa.

We also caught up with Rachel McRobb, CEO of South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS). As always, Rachel is a true inspiration and is doing an amazing job co-ordinating and deploying the PDC Inc/Perth Zoo Anti-poaching Team plus the sixteen other teams she runs. As more often than not an NGO such as SLCS fills the gap that the Government Departments cannot, and her presence in the Valley is so much of a life line that we hope to increase our support in the coming years.

It was also great to catch up with Steve and Anna Tolan from Chipembele Wildlife Conservation Trust and Lisa Gower, the Conservation Education Manager, who PDC Inc paid wages for six months out of the last year.
It was fantastic to see the great relationship that Lisa had developed first hand with the students in the local area, including developing a Tree Planting and Water Conservation Program, in addition to providing the inspiration for the children to continue their education.

We are looking forward to working further with Chipembele over the next 12 months, supporting their Community Rural Conservation Programme with a $10,000 grant provided by Perth Zoo.

Finally, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to Mike Palmer from the SAVE Foundation Australia, who without his generous support of my airfares the field trip would not be possible.

A Bull Elephant far from Happy with our presence

Any remaining Water Bodies are well visited

The Highest Density of Hippos anywhere in Africa. 23,000+ call the South Luangwa National Park their Home
The SLCS/ZCP/PDC Inc Painted Dog anti-snaring team has been doing a fantastic job recently.

After a joint effort by SLCS and ZCP that spanned over three weeks involving tracking, monitoring and attempting to dart a badly snared wild dog we finally succeeded. Talk about the last hour.

We had a few chances earlier but were reluctant to take them as we could not get closer than 35 metres of the dog, and having very little muscle mass to work with when darting wild dogs we thought it too risky and decided to wait for a better opportunity. A better opportunity didn’t come and the dog always stayed well away from us and the rest of the pack.

After a rapid change of plans that included using a different dart gun, different drug concentrations and different darts we risked a long shot and a took a big chance and managed to immobilize him and remove his snare.

Two other dogs in this pack were darted and collared and ZCP is able to follow and monitor his healing progress which seems to be going well.

The regular tracking of this pack of dogs enabled us to deploy the wild dog anti-snaring team to the same area the dogs were moving in. Fantastic results were obtained including the apprehension of three suspects and 34 snares removed.

Snakes in this particular area are set in long lines and are generally set to trap zebra, buffalo and small antelope. Unsurprisingly the dogs get caught fairly easily.

Remote Africa Safaris, one of our partners and supporters in Luangwa has successfully managed to exchange maize for snares made from an ill-fated solar fence project. These solar fences alone are responsible for the snaring of eight lions this year and countless other species, possibly including wild dogs.

A total of 2296 snares have been removed from the system with this program and undoubtedly many animals lives have been spared.

Rachel McRobb
CEO SLCS
Vehicles Africa Bound

Regular readers of the newsletter have been following the developments of PDC Inc providing two additional vehicles to the Zambian Carnivore Programme. We are pleased to announce that two vehicles will be making the journey from Fremantle to Dar es Salaam and onto Lusaka, Zambia in December. The vehicles will make a welcome addition to the project.

The two vehicles include a Series III Landrover, kindly donated by Syd Chipchase and a Holden Rodeo Turbo Diesel Twin Cab.

Many people have been involved making this a reality including Syd Chipchase, Steve Harrison (Topline Secondhand Cars), SAVE Foundation, Backpacker Car Rentals, Tracey and Brian Bernasconi, Maxene Kowaleski, and Troy York.

In addition I would like to thank Kirk Murray Franchise Owner, Ian Diffen “The Tyre Factory”, 109 South Terrace, Fremantle. For providing two tyres at retail price and donating the other two plus the fitting and balancing for free!! Thanks Kirk!

Another set of tyres were supplied by long time friend of Tracey and Brian Bernasconi, Frank Federico, of YHI (Australia) Pty Ltd, U1/4 White Street, Bayswater. He generously supplied the tyres at wholesale cost and no charge for delivery. Thanks Frank!

Thanks also go to Belinda Monola, sales executive from Kuehne & Nagel Pty Ltd for assisting in the organization of the transport requirements and Orden Kabenda, Human Resources and Administration Officer WWF Zambia Country Office for organising our Duty exemption on the imports.

Our sincere thanks must also go to everyone who has provided children’s clothes and toys which have been packed to the brim inside the two vehicles. In particular, Mike and Lorraine Dunn who provided the majority of the work wear, The Fabric Printer (see story in this newsletter and Rebecca Austin for her local school clothing drive.

Our thanks go to Tracey and Brian Bernasconi and their team and Backpacker Car Rentals for all their efforts in preparing both vehicles destined for Zambia.

Backpacker Car Rentals offer discount car hire valid for travel within the Perth Metropolitan area from their Fremantle depot located in Perth, Western Australia. Car hire in Perth is made easy with their cheap prices, friendly service, clean tidy cars and roadside assistance. Australian owned & operated, with management in the same location for 16 years; look no further for a budget car rental from as low as $110 per week (conditions apply). Cash payment and drivers under 25 years of age welcome!

Book online now using their secure payment facility provided by BankWest and SecurePay or call them for personal direct service on +61 8 94308869.
PDC Inc was invited to attend the evening to showcase the work we do across Southern Africa, and Angela Lemon also represented “African Ambience”, as she is now the Australian Stockist of “Tribal Textiles” from Zambia (www.africanambience.com.au).
The aim of the evening was to bring people together through the food, music and textiles of Africa, and to increase networking opportunities of the African community here in Perth.
Paula Weigmink, a talented Artist who has generously donated artwork to our previous events, displayed her latest creations on the evening, in addition to “Kalahari”, a local supplier of African food (www.kalaharifoods.com.au) served biltong and other delicacies to the 100 plus crowd, and of course the ambience of the beautiful fabrics and décor of Innovations itself.
It was a successful evening all round, with new members coming on board to PDC Inc including Karen Thomas, the proprietor of Innovation.

Thanks once again to Karen for organising such a great event and for the opportunity for PDC Inc to participate.
Please do not hesitate to contact Karen for any of your decorating enquiries. Her professional staff can assist with most decorating needs so, whether you just want to browse or would like advise & support with your decorating project. Visit your local store at Willetton (113 High Road, Willetton) or Subiaco (Subi Design Centre, 121 Hay St, Subiaco) or the website at www.innovationwa.com.

Our thanks once again go to Tony York, Director of Roadrunner Graphics and Signs. In our last newsletter we expressed our thanks to Troy for branding our Landrover destined for Zambia with all of the logos of our supported projects and topping it off with around 150 Painted Dog paw prints, which resulted in an awesome eye catching vehicle to raise awareness. Troy has also added his magic to the second vehicle, a Holden Rodeo, headed to Zambia as well. Thanks Troy!!
If you are you looking for Brand Implementation and Eye-catching designs with full colour graphics, call Troy to give you that professional “Visual Identity” from concept to completion.
Call: 0418 945 666 Email: sales@roadrunnersigns.com.au
Roadrunr Graphics & Signs is a family owned and run business that has been in operation for over 20 years. We specialize in custom designed graphics and signage, everything from a simple A frames to a full body car wrap.
“At Roadrunner we pride ourselves on punctual appointment times and prompt ten day turn around as well as taking excellent care and pride in every job we take on. No job is too small and we treat every job with the same level of importance.”
“On all of our jobs we come to you. We provide Graphic Signage Applications giving a complete makeover in all area’s of corporate, commercial & small businesses.”
This year has really flown by for me and it’s been a busy one, with the release of my seventh novel, ‘The Delta’ in Australia in August, and my second non fiction book, ‘War Dogs’, with Shane Bryant, earlier in the year.

Thanks very much to Painted Dog Conservation Inc supporters Sue Chipchase and Bev Poor for buying the rights to two character names in my eighth novel, which will be out around August 2011. Sue and Bev were the highest bidders at the PDC Inc. fundraising launch of ‘The Delta’in Perth last August.

As I write this I’m in a tent in the Kruger National Park, working on a ninth novel and a third biography. In between all this work I’ve had some interesting experiences with Painted Dogs since arriving back in Africa in September.

My wife, Nicola, and I had an adventurous beginning to our annual six-month trip to Africa, traveling in our Land Rover from Johannesburg to Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

A highlight of our trip was staying at the Khwai Community Development campsite on the northern border of the Moremi Game Reserve, where we saw a very healthy pack of 17 dogs on the Khwai River.

In the last few weeks here in South Africa I’ve come across two instances of Painted Dogs and human communities coming into conflict.

We recently stayed with friends who live on a wildlife estate near the town of Hoedspruit, not far from the Kruger National Park. The estate, where people have houses in a fenced game farm containing non-dangerous game, was abuzz with news that three Painted Dogs had managed to find their way in through the fence.

There were some amazing tales of people witnessing the dogs in action – even a story about the dogs chasing an impala into the bedroom of a young woman who was about to get married. The dogs became entangled in her wedding dress and ripped it a bit, but she was so impressed by the spectacle that she left it unmended and proudly showed off the damage at her ceremony!

On a less amusing note, the dogs have been busy thinning out the estate’s wildlife and this has caused some angst. One resident, reportedly, tried to get the estate managers to have the dogs darted and relocated as his wife feared for her safety while walking around. An expert was called in to remind residents that there has never been a recorded instance of a Painted Dog attacking a human.

The last I heard the authorities had deemed that there would be no forced relocation of the dogs, but there were rumblings about the cost of replacing the game the dogs have killed.

In another instance, citrus farming friends of ours who also have a game farm about an hour’s drive west of central Kruger have found themselves the temporary proud custodians of five adult painted dogs and nine healthy pups.

They’d had the pack pass through their game farm in the past and were more than happy to lose a few head of game to the dogs. However, some months later the pack, which had no pups at the time, had killed some cattle on a nearby farm.

The other farmer was less dog-friendly and was threatening to shoot them. With the approval of local nature conservation authorities our friend was allowed to go and dart and capture the dogs and relocate them to his game farm. They’ve since bred their pups and the plan is that once the litter is a little older the pack will be released to roam the area freely once again.

Both these recent instances highlight the problem of Painted Dogs and man coming into conflict. If, as we all hope, dog numbers increase in Africa then there will be more of these conflict issues to deal with.

What’s needed is education, resources, give and take, and good will. On that note, I hope your festive season and your 2011 is likewise full of good will and good cheer.

Cheers
Tony Park

Update from Patron Tony Park

On 12 September PDC Inc joined other conservation groups at Perth Zoo on National Threatened Species Day to show case and discuss the work that we undertake to Zoo visitors. Our thanks must go to Perth Zoo for allowing us the opportunity to attend. It is a savouring thought to find increased interest in Painted Dogs and their plight, particularly from the younger generations.

We recruited a few new members on the day, in addition to generating awareness of the plight of the Painted Dogs.
It was a great pleasure that Painted Dog Conservation Inc announced the return of Tony Park to Perth in 2010.

Now an annual event, over 60 people joined us for drinks and canapés for the launch of Tony’s new book “The Delta”, in which Chairman John Lemon, and ongoing supporter Syd Chipchase, are characters. Please read the below for a “taste” of “The Delta”:

After a failed assassination attempt on the president of Zimbabwe, ex-soldier turned mercenary Sonja Kurtz is on the run and heads for her only place of refuge, the Okavango Delta in the heart of Botswana.

She’s looking to rekindle a romance with her childhood sweetheart, safari camp manager Sterling Smith, and desperately wants a fresh start and to leave her perilous warrior lifestyle behind.

But Sonja discovers her beloved Delta is on the brink of destruction. She is recruited as an ‘eco-commando’ in a bid to halt a project that will destroy forever the Delta’s fragile network of swamps and waterways.

Soon Sonja finds herself caught in a deadly web of intrigue involving Sterling, the handsome Martin Steele – her mercenary commander, and a TV heartthrob and wildlife documentary presenter “Coyote” Sam Chapman who blunders out of the bush in a reality show gone wrong.

Instead of escaping her violent past, Sonja is now surrounded by men who are relying on her killer instincts to save the day. Where she came to find peace, she finds war... and it is not just the survival of the Delta that is at stake.

Not only did guests have the chance to listen to Tony’s update on his sojourn throughout Southern Africa and his subsequent inspiration to write “The Delta”, but all in attendance had the opportunity to purchase personally signed copies, hot off the press. As always, Tony had “a chat” with everyone and great stories to tell.

In addition, the evening provided the perfect opportunity to launch our “Life Membership” and “Pack Adoption” programs, with the latest Life Members, Carol Shannon and Tracey Bernasconi, receiving their plaques.

As always, guests were given the latest update on PDC Inc’s activities this year, and we also had an auction of items to raise funds for the in situ projects we support in Africa. This year, we enlisted the help of SAVE Committee member, Steve Harrison to conduct the auction itself. Last, but not least, was the chance for guests to bid to have their names in Tony’s next book—we are pleased to announce that Bev Poor and Sue Chipchase were the highest bidders. Congratulations!
The Painted Dog genetics project that is being supported by PDC Inc is making good progress. There were a few hitches with low quality DNA samples having to be cleaned up and fiddled with, but the wonderful folks at the University of Sydney have sorted that out and the samples are ready to go, with final analysis about to begin. Dingo DNA is being run alongside the wild dog samples, as a control to give a relative measure of success. Collecting the samples from the dingoes was a bit of an adventure. There is a new technology DNA collection technique available (Oragene®.ANIMAL), which looks like a cotton cue tip to most but is enough to get geneticists all excited. It’s a long stick with a soft sponge tip, which needs to be put into the mouth of the animal being sampled and held in the saliva in the cheek pouch, outside the teeth, for 15 seconds either side. Then it goes into a tube containing a magic solution which stabilizes the DNA.

I headed up to swab the mouths of the captive dingoes at the Australian Ecosystem Foundation in Lithgow, who kindly offered the samples. Although the dingoes there are captive they are not exactly tame, and have already worked out how to recognize a Vet and keep a safe distance. So getting a dingo to hold still with an oversized cue tip in its mouth was a challenge to say the least. There was a snowball’s chance of getting 15 seconds on each side, so a compromise was reached; as long as the tips got wet with saliva that was counted as success, having a pup chew the cue tip to bits and drop it in the dirt was counted as failure. Loss of fingers or limbs would also have counted as failure but the dingoes were much better behaved than that.

Fortunately our version of success was enough, and miraculously only 3 seconds worth of salvia still gave fantastic quality DNA. So call me a genetics nerd but the implications of this for field projects are impressive. Normally to get high quality and quantity of DNA you have two choices: 1) take a blood sample, which can be very difficult to get from an anaesthetised Painted Dog which has low blood pressure because of the drugs used to sedate it, or 2) cut out a small ear notch tissue sample. Both of these techniques are relatively invasive, and then involve a lot of processing to get the DNA, with risks of sample loss if your bush freezer stops working for some reason, which happens often – for example if your camp goes four feet under water in a 20yr flood that turned up early. With the magic cue tip, a quick dip in the cheek pouch and into the collection tube, then the DNA is stable at room temperature for months and can just be popped in the post! That’s so cool. We are going to try them on our koalas at the Cape Otway Centre next.

News from Kellie Leigh (alias Dr Dog)
Founder of the Zambian Carnivore Programme

The Fabric Printer (TFP) is a WA owned and operated business based conveniently just north of Perth in Osborne Park. TFP has been operating since 1994, striving to deliver the best possible screen printing and apparel solutions.

From its humble beginnings in Anthony's Grandmother's back-shed, The Fabric Printer has rapidly grown from a small, hand-printing shop to one of Perth's leading print and apparel businesses. Running with the most modern equipment available in today's screen printing market, TFP continues to offer its clients award winning products and services.
It was a great pleasure to meet John again and to finally meet Ange for the first time, though we have had lots of e-mail contact and we felt as though she was already an old friend!

John and Ange spent a day with Lisa (Conservation Education Manager) and I, learning about the conservation education programme in the local schools and visiting some of our schools improvement projects. They then came to Chipembele for the night and met some of the animals we are in the process of rehabilitating. Ange fell in love with Changa, a baby bushbaby, who was orphaned at about 2 days old. Now almost a month old he is charming everyone who meets him. John and Ange also kindly brought us over a donated laptop for use in teaching our conservation students how to use a computer. We are hugely grateful for all their personal support and for the sponsorship from Perth Zoo for the Chipembele conservation education outreach programme for 2011, which John helped to facilitate.

Steve and Anna, Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, November 2010

Over the years, TFP has increased its range of products and services on offer, ranging from our exclusive TFP Apparel Collection, to imported clothing including shirts, caps, hats and stubby coolers. The Fabric Printer is a perfect choice for your next promotion. We have a wide range of printing services available, from direct to garment screen printing, digital garment printing, plastisol transfers, spot sublimation service and embroidery.

Our thanks go to Anthony and James for their support.

Contact Details
2/16 Sundercombe St, Osborne Park WA 6017
T: 08 9244 9000 F: 08 9244 9022 E: sales@fabricprinter.com.au
Go Wild on the Catwalk

In August 2010, PDC Inc was contacted by Brooke Armour of National Zoo and Aquarium in Canberra. We were invited to their Fundraising Event “Go Wild on the Catwalk” on the 29th October, 2010 – which was a function to raise both awareness and funds for our beloved Painted Dogs.

This was the first Interstate Painted Dog Conservation Inc event – we were thrilled at the opportunity to meet like minded individuals who are as passionate about the Painted Dogs as we are, and were motivated to organise a high profile fundraising evening.

The evening commenced with a Fashion Parade showcasing the latest designs by ACT designers. John then took centre stage to do a presentation on Painted Dog Conservation Inc and all of our achievements so far, and where we are heading. The event concluded with both a silent and live Auction, with funds being raised for PDC Inc.

Many thanks also to Chris and Margie McClelland who generously donated one of their prints for the evening.

In addition, we met local artist Stephanie Melville, who has a passion for African wildlife and was displaying her works on the evening. She is also passionate about Painted Dogs, and her work can be viewed at www.jozani4animals.com.au

Our thanks go to the National Zoo and Aquarium Staff Trent and Shelley Russell (Directors), David Blogg (General Manager), Brooke Armour, Saira Mueller, Aadnan Mueller, Marnie Pegram, Tahlee Stacey, Yvonne Bennett, Michael Beer, Brendan Sheean and Darcy Ginty for the hospitality and efforts.

The National Zoo & Aquarium is Australia’s only combined Zoo and Aquarium.

That’s 2 attractions in one! They are situated on around 7 hectares of land just five minutes from the centre of Canberra. With a wide variety of both native and exotic animals, as well as the largest inland saltwater tank in Australia, there is something for everyone.

Their animal encounters provide visitors with an opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the world’s most amazing creatures!
PDC Inc is currently supporting many projects in the Mfuwe Region of Zambia-Zambian Carnivore Program, South Luangwa Conservation Society and Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre.

After my return from Zambia last year, I was very excited about an employment initiative that I had also visited during my stay. “Tribal Textiles” is located in Mfuwe, and provides employment to 100 local people, therefore capacity building the local community and providing training and an income for staff.

All of products are all hand made from 100% African cotton, and are beautifully hand painted to produce unique, beautiful creations. They produce many different designs, from traditional to contemporary and modern designs, and have a divers range of products including greeting cards, cushion covers, table and bed linen, wall hangings and a huge children's range.

Not only are the products high quality, and not only does the local community benefit from employment opportunities, but Tribal Textiles have also been responsible for building the local MALIMBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL. Part proceeds continue to be channeled into the school, in addition to 100% of their “Malimba” range going back into the community.

Angela and I visited the Malimba Community School this year and distributed greatly needed pens, pencils and stickers which the kids absolutely loved.

To go that one step further, Angela has now become the Australian Stockist for Tribal Textiles, and now trades as “African Ambience”. She sells retail, wholesale and also does in house “Tribal Textile” parties.

It was great for me to revisit Tribal Textiles again this year, but it was also great for Angela to meet the staff she has been dealing with over the last few months, in addition to seeing the products being created first hand. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit www.africanambience.com.au.
Creature Feature: Puku

Puku are antelope found in parts of Congo and Zambia in Africa. These stocky antelope are sometimes a bit less graceful than their more famous kin, but they are still quite lovely. Adult puku are around 80cm tall at the shoulder, with sandy brown coats which lighten to creamy brown on their underbellies. They have dark markings on their faces and around their ears, and the males have curved, ridged horns. Puku are very muscular, with bodies which are designed for rapid running in the event that they encounter predators. Most puku prefer wet grassland, although they will tolerate open woodlands and bush. They roam in social herds of 20-50 individuals, with herds growing larger in the dry season, when the animals sometimes join forces for protection. Each herd is overseen by a single male, who typically tries to encourage females to remain within his territory. These antelope can live to be around 17 years old, and sometimes even older in captivity. Female puku have an eight month gestation period, and they wean their young after about six months. Puku cows are not very good mothers, and the mother-calf bond is not strong. Often mothers will ignore the frantic, high-pitched bleating of their calves, and they rarely defend their young in the face of danger. Even very young calves act independently of their mothers, often running in a different direction to them when disturbed. After around a year, the young puku are sexually mature; the animals breed year round, although breeding tends to be concentrated in the rainy season, when resources are plentiful. In social groups, puku use a distinctive shrill whistle to indicate dangers to the herd. Their conservation status is generally viewed as secure, although some biologists are concerned about habitat encroachment. Puku are also threatened by fencing of farmlands, game preserves, and territories, which is sometimes done to protect wild animals from poachers or farmers who are upset about animal damage to their crops. Puku are predominantly grazers, and feed around sunrise and sunset. Source http://www.wisegeek.com/what-are-puku.htm
The Object of the Association is:
To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Dog, (also referred to as a Wild Dog) *Lycaon pictus*, through education promoting and disseminating research into such conservation and seeking to achieve their sustainable management.

Conservation through action and education

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

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.

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