

# Painted Dog Conservation Inc

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Patrons: Tony Park, Bradley Trevor Greive and Simon Reeve

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



## From the Chairman

Sitting down to write this newsletter on the final week before venturing into our major fundraising events for 2017, three back to back fundraising nights with the incredible Kevin Richardson lovingly known as the “Lion Whisperer”, I once again get to reflect on what has yet again been a busy yet rewarding year.

This edition is filled with some of the highlights of the year as well as updates from our supported projects. Excitingly, we have recently partnered with Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness, a project based in the north-west of Kafue National Park in Zambia, providing enhanced wildlife security through anti-poaching, camera surveillance and monitoring in collaboration with the Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the Zambian Carnivore Programme and PDC Inc.

Firstly I would like to welcome our latest Life Members Dr Jane Goodall, Jean-Claude Van Damme, CDI Group Fitout and Maintenance, Evan Litis, Kerri Cliff, Peregrine Purich, Geoff Hoddy, Peter Flack and Joanne Edwards.

In April I led our second PDC Inc. tour taking 14 passionate guests on a 19-day adventure to Zambia to visit our supported projects and then crossing into Zimbabwe to visit Painted Dog Conservation in Hwange National Park where it all began for us almost 20 years ago. It was great to showcase their amazing work but also proudly show off the rehabilitation centre I designed and built in 2002 and 2003. From there we ended the trip gazing in awe at the mighty Victorian Falls, Mosi-oa-Tunya “The smoke that thunders” and all that a town built around one of the natural Seven Wonders of the World has to offer. Thanks to Swagman Tours for their continued support in helping with the tour logistics.

Being born in 1971 and a child who loved the 80s action heroes, I am very excited to announce our partnership with



“The Muscles from Brussels” Jean-Claude Van Damme. Better known for his acting, martial arts, screenwriting, film production and film directing, he is also passionate about wildlife conservation and animal welfare and we look forward to the working with him into the future on some very exciting projects.

On the 80s theme we also held a great fundraising night at the Newport Hotel in Fremantle with eighties rock stars Scott Carne, Brian Mannix, David Sterry and the gorgeous Tottie Goldsmith from the Absolutely 80s doing it for the dogs.

Enjoy the updates and look forward to seeing you at one of the nights with Kevin Richardson in either Perth, Sydney or Melbourne and don't forget to join us on Facebook or Instagram for regular updates as well.

John Lemon  
Chairman PDC Inc.



Top: 2017 tour group with guides from Kafunza River Lodge on the banks of the Luangwa River Zambia.

Above: Jealous Mpofu, John Lemon and Last Marozhe at the entrance to the Painted Dog Conservation Rehabilitation Centre.



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## Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust Update



The year ran flawlessly at the Chipembele Conservation Centre up until the last week Term 2 (July) when a violent wind tore several roofing sheets right off the main building. Fortunately nobody was nearby at the time. However, the roof was made of asbestos which is no longer sold in Zambia (for all the right reasons!) so we had to set up a funding appeal to replace the whole roof with 64 x 7 metre long metal sheets. It was an enormous construction project with the tops of the walls all having to be smashed off to fit the shape of the new sheets but after several weeks the work was completed, all damage was repaired and ready for opening at the start of Term 3!

During Term 2 a total of 720 students attended the Centre and engaged in all-day interactive sessions on 'Defence in Animals' and 'World Wildlife' where we toured the world in a day. Each student was issued a Wildlife Passport which was stamped as we entered each of 7 different countries, including Australia. They learned about the different species of animals

that live there and the conservation threats that some of them face. Although most of our curriculum focuses on the local situation of wildlife and habitats in South Luangwa we also try and open the minds of our students to the wider world.

Our Conservation Outreach Programme in Schools has been busy and fun. We ran an anti-snaring campaign in the community, led 2 camping excursions ('Nature Nights') focusing on student leadership skills and increased wildlife knowledge and held staff and student photography workshops. We also took 16 students on an excursion to Ndubaluba Outdoor Centre (a two-hour drive from Chipembele), again focusing on leadership and interpersonal skill development. These students had won a place through the 'Ndubaluba Challenge' that took place over two months with points assigned to various categories of participation and effort. We are proud to be helping to shape Zambia's conservation leaders of the future!

Our Community Conservation Educators have begun teaching in adult community groups for the first time. Based on surveys they have been teaching subjects that the community were most interested to learn about, which included deforestation and human-wildlife conflict. We also imported an ex-army ambulance from the UK that has been converted into a mobile education unit. It is equipped with educational resources and camping equipment so our Educators are able to reach even remoter areas than before. These areas still have plenty of wildlife but conservation education in the community is totally absent. Empowering local people with conservation knowledge and skills for sustainable living is the key to the future of the area's habitats and wildlife.

Sincere thanks to PDC Inc. for their continued support of our programmes.

Anna Tolan  
Executive Director  
Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust



## PDC Inc. Tour by Ryle Purich

Arriving in Africa for the first time it is always hard to get a gauge on the amount of effort put into animal conservation. After arriving at Kafunta River Lodge we immediately set out to for South Luangwa National Park where over the next eight days we were able to see many of the iconic African animals.

In particular, with the help of the **Zambian Carnivore Programme**, we were able to view a pack of African Painted dogs together with hooded vultures. This bird has a symbiotic relationship with the painted dogs and because of the vast reduction in the number of the painted dogs in Africa this bird is also critically endangered.

We were also able to see the effort put into conservation by different groups of people namely the **Zambian Carnivore Programme**, **Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust** and the **Conservation South Luangwa anti-poaching teams**.

What was really important was the great effort to both educate and engage local people to take ownership of the conservation crusade and being able to show them that it will be of greater benefit in the long run to adopt this strategy. This can be a difficult task in view of the poverty that is prevalent in many African nations.

Subsequent to this stay we travelled down to Hwange National Park and stayed at the Hwange Safari Lodge for three days. Again we saw many of the iconic African animals and got to see the pack of painted dogs several times thanks to the efforts of the team at Painted Dog Conservation.

The set up at the Painted Dog Conservation Centre was very impressive both in being



able to educate local people, especially the children, and in rehabilitating injured painted dogs.

The team at the centre was made up of

mostly locals, were very dedicated and were doing a great job under difficult circumstances.

The final part of our tour was to visit Victoria

Falls which is a must see if you come to this part of Africa, haggle with a number of merchants to purchase artefacts and simply to enjoy the cultural experience.



# Conservation South Luangwa Update by Rachael McRobb

## Detection Dogs

PDC Inc continue to go flat out with new ideas for fundraising and ways to support CSL.

Ange and John recently launched the very exciting Detection Dog Adoption Program which we are thrilled to be part of. CSL owns 5 detection dogs (Ruger, Chai, Earl, Rudi and Currant) supported by their eight handlers who work tirelessly to counter wildlife trafficking and remove illegal guns used for poaching from the field.

The dogs are trained to sniff out ivory, bush meat, firearms and ammunition, bushmeat, leopard and lion skins. With fantastic results since they started, this year alone they have sniffed out more than 35 illegal firearms and apprehended over 25 suspects and continue to do great work.

The Detection Dog Adoption program helps hugely in keeping the dogs out and about on patrols.

## Painted Dog Anti-snaring Teams

CSL has been re-focusing anti-poaching strategies this year which has resulted in higher numbers of snares being removed from the bush, and more suspects being apprehended for snaring. Overall this is good news for wildlife as more animals are safer.

January to July 2017 has seen a total of 350 snared being removed from the field (313 were removed in total for the whole of 2016), 126 suspects apprehended (130 for the whole of 2016). Eighty-one anti-snaring day patrols and 16 short patrols have been conducted.

However, despite the anti-snaring pressure from scouts, snared animals continue to be reported, although at a lower rate than in previous years. Basic anti-poaching and anti-snaring patrols are one of the most effective ways to keep painted dogs safe, that's why our anti-snaring teams are so crucial.





# Detector Dog Adoption

PDC Inc is pleased to launch our latest campaign – you can adopt one of the five “Working Dogs for Conservation” (WD4C) deployed by Rachel McRobb and her team at Conservation South Luangwa in Zambia! The dogs play a crucial role in detecting Ivory,

Bush meat, Guns and Ammunition, Lion bones and Skins, Leopard skins and Pangolins at the National Park’s boundary and across Zambia’s Eastern Province. There are five dogs in the CSL family: Rudi, Earl, Chai, Ruger and Currant. Each has their

own unique story and all contribute to saving Zambia’s wildlife! The cost of each adoption is \$200 for a 12 month period, with an update from Zambia every three months. You also receive a “Certificate of Adoption” with your adoption

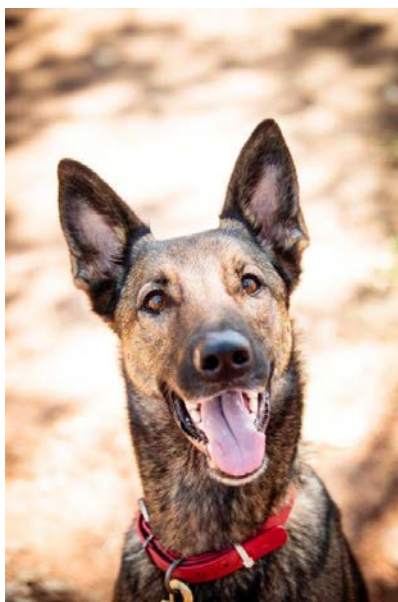
fee. All funds raised going to the ongoing costs of training and upkeep of this amazing team! If you would like to adopt one (or more!) of these amazing Dogs, please email us at [lemonj@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lemonj@ozemail.com.au) and we can organise your Adoption Certificate and payment.



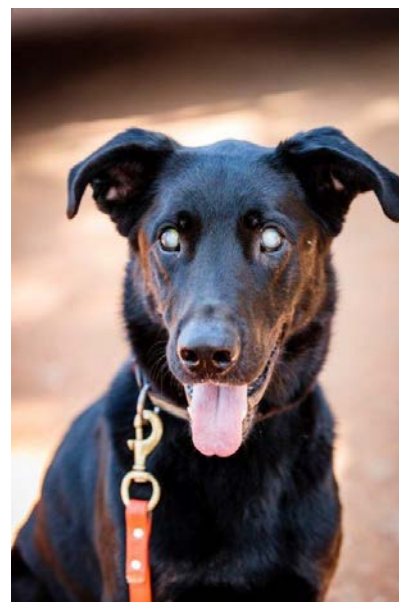
**Rudi** did not come from a rescue shelter but his owners contacted WD4C as he had become too much of a handful and difficult for them to keep. They’d had him since he was a small puppy and loved him dearly but knew they couldn’t cope so at 11 months of age he joined WD4C. Rudi is an amazing working dog and has very quickly directed all his day time energy to focus on his ball. He is also wonderfully sweet and his new handler, Alick, adores him.



**Earl** is a Dutch Shepherd who was donated to WD4C due to his extremely high play drive and energy levels. Not the type of dog that would make an easy pet, he has turned into an outstanding working dog who loves to work with his sister, Chai. Initially trained in Montana by WD4C, both dogs continued their training when they moved to Zambia in 2015. Earl is much larger than Chai and does things at a slower pace, thoroughly searching vehicles and areas and reliably indicating on illegal contraband.



**Chai** is a Dutch Shepherd who was donated to WD4C due to her extremely high play drive and energy levels. Not the type of dog that would make an easy pet, she has turned into an outstanding working dog who loves to work with her brother, Earl. Initially trained in Montana by WD4C, both dogs continued their training when they moved to Zambia in 2015. Chai is a particularly fast and slender dog who does most things at high speed, and whilst she was a handful when she arrived she has matured in to an extremely reliable dog that adores her handlers and loves her job.



**Ruger** is a three-and-a-half year old Labrador-Shepherd cross from Montana, USA. He was found at an animal shelter and selected for his playful energy, despite a congenital eye problem that has left him almost totally blind. But Ruger’s eyesight does not affect his ability to work; it makes him more focused and amazing. After nine months in a canine training program, Ruger went to WD4C in Montana to start his career in wildlife conservation. He arrived in Zambia in 2014. He is the headman of his kennels and is the most experienced dog CSL owns.



**Currant** was a stray dog found in a shelter in Idaho, USA. She had been hit by a car and needed surgery on her hind leg. After being identified by WD4C and selected for training as a detection dog, Currant has made it to Zambia to join the CSL team. A crazy high energy dog, she loves to work and play non-stop and happily works with anyone, although her new handler, Sidney, has been assigned to her.



# African Wildlife Conservation Fund Update by Dr Rosemary Groom

## Dog Conservation and Monitoring

In the Save Valley Conservancy, we currently have 15 packs that we are monitoring, consisting of a total of 127 adults/yearlings. 12 of these packs have already begun to den this year, and there are two packs that still have pregnant females. This year there have been multiple litters/pregnancies in six of our packs, leading to a rough total of 80–85 puppies being born so far. In Gonarezhou National Park, we are currently monitoring eight dens and are always looking for more.

With packs having limited movement while denning, our scouts have been doing a fantastic job in monitoring the health of dogs. At the beginning of the denning season, we successfully removed a neck snare from a young female in one of the Save Valley Conservancy packs. As denning season comes to an end, the dogs will begin to move a lot more, and the chance of encountering snare lines will increase. Therefore we will be participating in a conservancy wide snare sweep down in the Save Valley Conservancy towards the end of September. This will not only be helping dog populations, but will be helping all other predator and prey species found in the conservancy.

In an attempt to keep track of the dog movements once packs move away from dens, we managed to collar two more packs in Gonarezhou National Park in July, and we are hoping to collar two more packs in the Save Valley Conservancy. In Gonarezhou National Park, packs in the south-east of the park were collared, as here, there is potential for a lot of movement between the Zimbabwe /Mozambique border.

## Rabies Vaccination Campaigns

Later in August, AWCF will also be working in collaboration with VAWZ to facilitate a five-day rabies campaign in the Bikita district. The campaign will aim to freely vaccinate domestic dogs against the rabies virus. The rabies virus not only has the potential to effect wildlife in the conservancy, but it also poses a threat to surrounding communities. Through vaccinating local domestic dog populations, we are reducing the risk to both wildlife and communities.

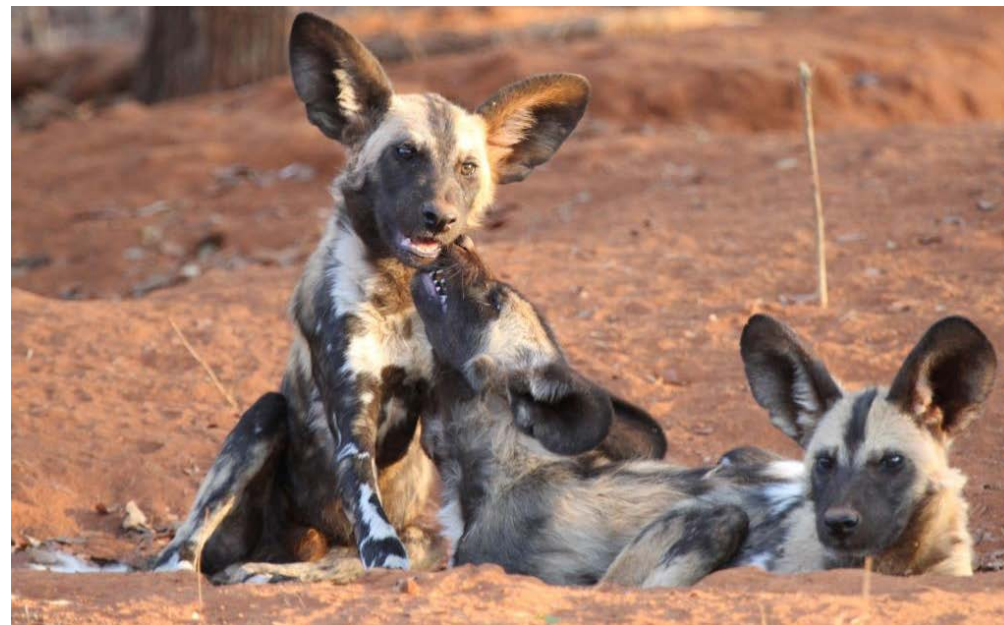
## SVC Education Project

The last school term has been a busy one for Victor Chibaya, our wonderful education officer for the SVC schools. Excitingly, he has just started a Master's Program Development Studies and is currently doing his first semester, during the August school holidays.

The schools-based education program around SVC consists of a conservation awareness program, library program, literacy program and numerous other things. Last term, >35 primary schools in four districts were visited. The Grade 6 pupils are taught about conservation of Painted dogs, pangolins and other carnivores, then shown a wildlife movie called: Painted dogs of the Okavango. Random quiz questions were asked to the pupils and little prizes of stationery were available to the best students. Teachers were encouraged to use the resources we gave them and also have Environmental Clubs with pupils who have passion for conservation.

In June and July, library books were distributed

*Clockwise from top: Nova Pack. Schools program at Mwanysa Primary. AWCF's Jess Watermeyer fits a satellite collar to a wild dog in Gonarezhou NP. Negwari Primary receiving books. Nova Pack.*







to an additional 20 primary schools around the Savé Valley Conservancy, and all schools have made good and functional libraries; a real life changer for the students. Follow-up visits to new and old libraries were done and brief refresher librarian training was carried out as some schools now have new librarians due to staff movements. Most libraries are doing well and common problems were solved during the visits. 'Children's corners' were established at Mwanyisa and Sabi Valley primary schools.

In association with this library program, we also provide schools and some individual students with solar reading lights (donated by the Bourke Family Foundation) to increase their opportunities for evening and night time study and reading. To date we have distributed over 1,000 reading lights to schools and communities around SVC and GNP.

We currently have literacy programs

running in over 30 schools and every year we conduct literacy tests to determine improvements in literacy rates both at an individual and school level. Happy Readers re-tests were done in Pore Pore, Rukope, Nyahanga, Muteo and Machoka primary schools in the last term and the data will soon be ready for analysis. Teachers were reminded to use the books properly so that required goals can be achieved.

Finally, we are happy to say that all our scholars are doing well. AWCF currently supports 23 secondary school scholars, from Form 1 to Form 7. We've visited most of them in the last term and paid for extra holiday lessons for all our exam writing scholars.

#### **Chilojo Club Education and HWC Projects (Gonarezhou NP)**

The education and community program around GNP continues to go from strength to strength – so much so that we sometimes

struggle to keep up! We now have a fully-fledged human wildlife conflict (HWC) project established, with three full time HWC officers in the field and one HQ based project coordinator. All have mobile phone hotlines and the field officers all operate on motorbikes. So far the cases they have dealt with include pythons, buffaloes, elephants, cheetah, hyena, lions, crocodiles and hippos. No direct conflict with Painted dogs is being reported, but the program plays a vital role in educating and supporting community members to live with all wildlife.

The Chilojo Club Education Project has had a busy few months as well. The team has been busy with:

- doing conservation education lessons for Grade 6 pupils in all primary schools – with a focus on Painted dogs
- World Pangolin Day celebrations
- Human Wildlife Conflict Workshops

*Left to right: Nova Pack dogs. Reading test at Pore Pore*

- our first four-day long student field trip into Gonarezhou NP
- the establishment of libraries in all 43 primary schools around Gonarezhou NP
- conducting 12 day-trips for 30 students per trip, plus one day-trip for school head teachers into Gonarezhou NP, to visit the iconic Chilojo Cliffs
- having a stand at the Great Limpopo Cultural Trade Fair at Mhlanguleni
- conducting literacy tests and conservation quizzes to help evaluate our programs.

The community enthusiasm for all our programs is overwhelming and the evidence from all our evaluation efforts are very positive.

We'd like to thank PDC Inc. for their support of our work.



# Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness by Neil and Allisdair MacDonald

Shinganda Wildlife Wilderness (SWW) is privileged to have recently joined hands with PDC Inc. to collaborate regarding the conservation of African Painted Dogs, lions, leopards, spotted hyenas and cheetahs in the greater Kafue Ecosystem in north-west Zambia.

SWW is an unfenced, open ecosystem conservancy, established in 2001, which is “bolted on” to the adjoining conservation network, thus expanding suitable habitat for wildlife and increasing long-term survival probabilities for a range of carnivores and herbivore species upon which they depend.

The PDC Inc./SWW partnership clearly recognises that effective conservation of wildlife requires an ecosystem-based approach that integrates protected area management (in the Kafue National Park and Kasonso-Busanga Game Management Area – GMA) into surrounding landscapes such as SWW, which lies within the Mushima Chiefdom in north-west Zambia.

In our case, the boundaries of the nearby national park and the adjoining GMA are merely imaginary lines drawn on a map.

Boundaries are, fortunately, unfenced, thus allowing the free movement of wide-ranging species like African Painted Dogs, lions, cheetahs and elephants over a large expanse of unsettled wilderness.

The newly created PDC Inc./SWW partnership is focused on strengthening wildlife security in the north-western sector of the greater Kafue Ecosystem, through SWW anti-poaching patrols and remote-sensor camera surveillance.

Assistance provided to SWW from PDC Inc. has enabled SWW to ensure that their re-supply vehicle was recently fitted with new tyres to guarantee safe transport of supplies to SWW and improve in-field support to SWW staff.

The SWW anti-poaching team had recent success when they surprised a poaching gang and recovered an AK47 automatic



assault rifle, Hammer shotgun and a number of bicycles, before the poachers were able to inflict any damage to wildlife on SWW.

Remote sensor cameras were re-deployed in the area in August 2017 to monitor wildlife activity and to increase surveillance to combat poaching.

SWW deployed additional camera traps in the area during September.

SWW greatly appreciates PDC Inc.'s support and we look forward to working together as a team with local conservation partners to consolidate and strengthen the conservation effort in the greater Kafue Ecosystem for the benefit of wildlife in the region.



*Above: SWW Scouts display some confiscated firearms, including a home-made muzzle-loader in foreground, shotgun in background.  
Right: SWW Scouts assist with placement of camera trap in a termite mound.*



# Painted Dog Safari by Katrina Purich

When John Lemon said he was doing another Painted dog tour it did not take long for three little bush babies – Kerri Cliff, Karel Helliwell and Katrina Purich – to sign on. Not only because we had been before but because it was going to be for longer and we were going to see the projects that Painted Dog Conservation Inc. is involved with. There were five of us who had been before, part of a total of 14 guests. A lot about the trip was different. Firstly we left a month earlier than last time so everywhere was a lot greener and there was a lot more water in the rivers and getting bogged was not uncommon.

Karel wants to share the two night layover in Lusaka the capital of Zambia as it broke the long haul of our journey to Mfuwe. We experienced a fantastic city tour and visited some local markets but the highlight was a visit John organised to Lilayi Elephant Nursery. To see the amazing work they do first hand was an absolute privilege. Watching the babies being bottle fed will live in our memories forever. These innocent babies are victims of poaching, snaring and mishaps. Thankfully there are organisations, like Lilayi, taking care of them. You can sponsor online directly to the organisation. One of the many highlights of our trip was when a baby elephant mock charged us then realised what he was doing and ran back to the safety of his mother's legs, only to fall over at her feet. We all laughed at his cute little antics. He was deeply embarrassed and will probably re-think his mock charges in future.

Day three and we were off to Mfuwe where we were greeted by our wonderful guides Effie, Martin and Abel from Kafunta River



Lodge. Abel greeted us like long lost friends as he had previously been our guide and showed us to the vehicle to take us to the Lodge.

It was great going through Mfuwe again and in fact Karel and I managed to make up a song about Mfuwe which we enjoyed singing as much as Abel did hearing it.

Kafunta River Lodge is near the Luangwa River which borders the South Luangwa National Park and is owned by Anke and Ron Cowan.

This is where we spent the next eight days going to see the amazing wildlife. Kafunta was as wonderful this time as it was for our previous stay with many of the same staff attending to all our needs. The chalets are first class and the food was magnificent.

On the first afternoon on safari we saw our first leopard and were to see many of them over the remaining eight days. We subsequently saw many puku, impala, zebras, giraffe, elephants, baboons, hippos, bushbucks, vervets and plentiful birdlife. We didn't immediately see Painted dogs but saw many in the latter days on safari. We also got to see close up on the first day two male lions, Ginger and Garlic. These male lions head up a pride of 21 lions known as The



*Top: The deck area where we had our meals at Kafunta. Above: One of lunches we had in the tree house at Kafunta.*

Big Pride. We subsequently saw the female members of this pride several times during our stay.

Painted Dog Conservation Inc. supports many different projects, one of which is the Zambian Carnivore Programme. John Lemon took us to catch up with the CEO of this programme, Matt Becker, and his team which included Johnathan Merkle, Henry Mwape, Benny, Mercy and Thandi.

All were of great assistance helping us track Painted dogs and lions. Special mention must be made of Benny and Johnathan for sleeping out and tracking the Painted dogs allowing us to see the Mwusauke Pack which consisted of 23 dogs. We were able to see these dogs close up and watch how they socialised and interacted with each other. It gave me goosebumps. Subsequent to this we visited the Zambian Carnivore





Programme headquarters funded by PDC Inc.

Next on our tour was a visit to the Conservation South Luangwa Dog Detection Unit where it was fabulous to catch up with Rachel McRobb. At first we got to meet the dogs in the kennels and then later at the headquarters where the dogs displayed their detection abilities. The items that they are being trained to detect are ivory, bush meat and weapons. We also got to hear about efforts to introduce bees and grow chillies to deter elephants from destroying crops. There are over 60 scouts employed by the anti-poaching/snaring unit. We meet some of the scouts and saw the snare wire the scouts had recovered on the poles some of which is passed onto Anna at Mulberryry mongoose who in turn recycles it into amazing pieces of jewellery. Anna uses beautiful beads, semi- precious stones and

pearls with the wire making every piece unique.

We got to meet Thandi for the first time as we had heard about her from Chipembele where she was a star student. As a result of this she was selected to study in Canada and was then sponsored in part by PDC Inc. to do her Masters in USA and now has come back to Zambia to work with the Zambian Carnivore Programme.

We visited the Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust to see the good work that Anna and Steve Tolan are doing in educating children in conservation and sustainability. The facilities and instructions are first class which make the children very enthusiastic to attend.

We had a memorable time in South Luangwa with all of the people involved with Painted Dog Conservation Inc. and



it makes you really appreciate seeing for yourself all the fantastic projects that PDC Inc. are involved with and be grateful for the dedication they all put into conservation. I feel privileged to have met everyone involved in the projects.

The next part of the tour was two days in Livingston to see Victoria Falls where we stayed at Avani Hotel. We had a relaxing cruise on the Zambezi River and went to town to shop at the markets and visit the Museum. Our next trip was a 2 to 3 hour drive by car to Hwange Safari Lodge in Zimbabwe which was located only about five minutes from the Painted Dog Conservation Centre.

John informed us that a dog had been spotted with a broken leg and the PDC Rehabilitation Centre had it waiting for the Vet to have a look. We arrived at the Lodge where we were met by Peter Bliston,

Washington Moyo and Shepard Thomas from PDC. We then ventured into the National Park with Washington while John and Peter went separately to locate the painted dog pack. They were successful in locating them just before sunset which enabled us to see them just before dark. There were nine dogs in this pack plus the one with the broken leg which was being cared for in the rehabilitation centre. This dog was later successfully reunited with its pack. This shows the good work the rehabilitation centre is undertaking and they have now successfully rehabilitated 52 dogs through this centre.

On game drives into the National Park we managed to see nine lion cubs laying in the grass while the females were off hunting, many elephants, southern giraffe, blue wildebeest, buffalo, side striped jackals, zebras, kudu, Impala, roan antelope, steenbock and of course





The picture above shows John and Peter at the entrance to Painted Dog Conservation Headquarters and Rehab Centre.

our beloved Painted Dogs.

Next day we visited the Painted Dog Conservation Headquarters and Rehab Centre. The centre is made up of three parts, the main building/visitor centre, the rehabilitation enclosures and the educational bush camp. The main building headquarters is informative and well set out with snare wire cemented into the walls. Inside you follow the story of a pair of Painted dogs as told by the lovely Maria with paintings of the dogs through their life cycle together with cut outs of other life-size animals. All the projects employ local people as projects like these will not be successful if the local communities are not engaged. The rehabilitation centre is well fenced and of a large enough size to allow rehabilitation so as not to cause stress for the dogs. The Bushcamp area has been constructed to cater for up to 40 children at a time for overnight stays. Each group of

children is accompanied by some parents and teachers and usually stay for three or four days at a time. Dominic is in charge of the bushcamps and is passionate about getting the conservation message across to as many local children as possible. Other staff members that I met were Last, who was the driver and the best mechanic, and John's old friend, Jealous. John's friendship with Jealous goes back a long way and seeing them together is more akin to a meeting of brothers. Before our trip John informed us of various items to bring that would assist Dominic in running the educational bushcamps.

Then we were off to Iganyana Arts which is another project supported by PDC Inc. in the village of Dete adjacent to Hwange National Park. This art centre is run by local artists and the head of this group, Agnes, gave a tour of the facility including the vegetable garden out the back. We were welcomed



Inside the Bushcamp.

with a song by several of the artists as well as being shown how the artefacts were made. There was snare wire art, baskets, wooden carvings and moulded wire beaded wildlife. Some of the guests were also given the opportunity to make their own beaded wire item with the assistance of the artists. Dominic then introduced us to Charisma who sang us a beautiful song, after which she was presented with a number of stationary items and a soft toy.

The centre was a fantastic place to visit and we all did a little retail therapy. On the way back to lunch we went past where the staff from PDC reside and where Dominic has his house. We also went past near where Cecil the lion was hunted and killed and we later found out the lion cubs we previously saw were from his original pride. As it was our last night Peter, Jealous and Last joined us for dinner at the Lodge.

We left the next morning to go to Victoria

Falls where we stayed at The Kingdom Hotel. It was a great location because it was walking distance to the markets and walking distance to Victoria Falls.

One of our fellow travellers, Peter Cliff, was keen for a carved buffalo and was inundated by stall holders trying to sell him one. Then he told them I was keen for a duck carving so the sellers offered me many carvings of many different types of birds.

In the end one of the sellers, who went by the name of Peanut, found the duck carving I was chasing.

We then had dinner at the Victoria Falls Hotel which has been immaculately restored and is well worth a visit. Next day we walked to the Falls and ran the gauntlet of many venders trying to sell artefacts on the way. From this side the Falls did not disappoint and we got a thorough soaking but the view was great.

Our last night was spent together at the





"Boma" for dinner where we tried all sorts of food, played drums and danced. It was a fitting end to a wonderful time in Africa.

I do not think you can go to Africa without coming back changed because Africa leaves you wanting more and all you think about is when you can come back.

Thanks to John Lemon for organising our trip and Angela for letting us have this time with him as it was great to see all the other projects.

We can all sleep a little easier knowing John and Angela have the Painted dogs imprinted in their hearts and we support your efforts to help conserve Painted dogs.

Keep up the good fight.



*Karel Helliwell, Kerri and Peter Cliff, Ryle and Katrina Purich are no longer bush babies but I hope part of the pack.*



# Zambian Conservation Programme Update by Matt Becker

Dear PDC Inc. supporters,

This update finds us in the middle of the dry season, with Painted dog denning still underway and the days beginning to get considerably warmer.

A lot has occurred since the last newsletter, including a great visit from John and PDC Inc. members to the Luangwa!

Our work continues to be generously supported by PDC Inc. through a variety of activities and contributions and we are extremely grateful.

Thanks again for your support and we hope to see you in Zambia again soon!

## **Lady Liuwa—The Passing of an Icon**

This year we were saddened to lose Lady Liuwa, the iconic lion from Liuwa Plain, made famous in the National Geographic film “The Last Lioness.”

Lady, as she was affectionately known by all, was for many years the only lion in the Liuwa ecosystem prior to a series of reintroductions by African Parks, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and ZCP.

These efforts were extremely challenging but ultimately resulted in the first lion pride in Liuwa in over a decade, with Lady spending her twilight years surrounded by cubs and pride mates.

Members of PDC Inc. – John Lemon and Geoff Hoddy – were able to get out to Liuwa and see Lady and participate in the lion restoration efforts, and ZCP’s contributions were assisted greatly with PDC assistance on vehicles and fieldwork.

While her story is unique, the challenges inherent in bringing lions back in Liuwa are emblematic of those throughout Africa.



Lady’s departure leaves a massive void, but we are all grateful to have known her over our 8 years together and will continue working with APN and DNPW to ensure that there will never again be a Last Lioness in Liuwa.

The statement from African Parks is included below.

## **Remembering Lady Liuwa, the ‘Last Lioness’ of Liuwa Plain**

It has been confirmed by African Parks that a legendary lioness fondly known as ‘Lady Liuwa’, who lived in Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia, has died of natural causes on 9 August 2017, just one-day before World Lion Day.

African Parks, a conservation NGO which manages national parks and protected areas across Africa, has been managing Liuwa Plain in partnership with the Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) since 2003.



Lady Liuwa was an icon, and a symbol of survival and resilience. Due to years of poaching and illegal trophy hunting, lions were completely eradicated from Liuwa Plain in the 1990's, except for one lioness – Lady Liuwa.

Her presence was first confirmed in 2002 and since then she roamed the plains for years as the sole survivor in the park. With no lions to be found, she looked to humans for companionship.

Her extraordinary story of survival, as well as how African Parks helped give her a pride of her own, became one of the most moving wildlife films ever produced.

"Lady Liuwa was a truly exceptional lioness, so much so that it is impossible to do justice to her in words," said Peter Fearnhead, CEO of African Parks.

"Oftentimes she would lie just five meters away from our camp-fire in the middle of the park. When it came time to go to bed, she would follow, walking parallel to the path and then fall asleep in front of one of our tents. In the mornings, we would find her in a tree, just watching but never threatening us. After years of being solitary, and after several reintroductions and careful management, we were finally able to unite her with her own kind. While her passing saddens us all, she leaves behind a legacy of survival in the small but growing pride in Liuwa Plain."

The efforts to find Lady Liuwa her own family were not without setbacks. After five years of waiting for lions to return to Liuwa from the larger landscape, and after securing the park through improved law enforcement and working with local communities, African Parks reintroduced a male lion in 2008 to join Lady.

Sadly, he died during translocation.

A year later, two more males were reintroduced, both of whom mated with Lady Liuwa but she never produced any cubs, almost certainly because of her infertility. Two young lionesses were then reintroduced in 2011.

However, in 2012 one of the females was killed by a poacher's snare and the other, Sepo, fled towards the Angolan boundary.

In a dramatic rescue mission, Sepo was darted, flown back to the park by helicopter and placed in a boma for safety along with Lady Liuwa to encourage Sepo to bond with Lady, critical for the young lioness' survival. And this time it worked.

After two months, they were released back into the park, and were inseparable from that point forward. Sepo produced her first litter of cubs shortly thereafter.

The growing pride suffered another setback

when the two males left the park and entered Angola.

One was shot and killed by villagers, but the other made it safely back to Liuwa on his own, where he became the resident male.

African Parks in collaboration with the Zambia Carnivore Programme (ZCP), DNPW and Mushingashi Conservancy reintroduced another male lion in September 2016 to help grow the pride and increase genetic integrity.

The newly translocated male and the resident male were placed in a boma for two months to undergo the bonding process and then were successfully released into the park to join with the females.

While the males were in the enclosure, Lady Liuwa and Sepo would visit them, sleeping just outside of it at night, and staying just a short distance from it during the day.

On 15 November 2016 it was confirmed that Sepo had produced another two new cubs, sired by the resident male.

While Lady Liuwa could not have cubs of her own, she was seen helping to raise Sepo's numerous litters over the years, and it was clear that finally Lady Liuwa had a pride of her own.

Lady Liuwa's exact age is unknown, but it is believed she was 17 years old, an extraordinary feat for a wild lion hunting and surviving on her own, and is a testament to the collaborative protection she was afforded by African Parks, the DNPW, ZCP and the BRE.

Her remains along with her VHF collar were found yesterday.

There was no sign of human activity and it is believed she died of natural causes.

"It's incredibly rare for a lion to live to such





an old age and to die from natural causes,” said Matthew Becker, CEO of ZCP.

“Lions are incredibly threatened across their range given the levels of poaching, conflict killing and habitat loss and fragmentation that is occurring across the continent.

“Her survival and that of her growing pride signifies what can happen when people come together to help protect and restore a species—Lady’s story is one of hope and possibility.”

### **PDC Inc. Visits Zambia**

In May we again had the pleasure of hosting John Lemon and PDC Inc. members as they visited South Luangwa for a week-long safari at Kafunta River Lodge.

In addition to excellent game viewing and serious relaxing at the lodge, John helped ensure members saw where their support was going by providing visits to Conservation South Luangwa, Chipembele and ZCP bases and ZCP staff accompanied them throughout the trip to assist in finding Painted dogs and other carnivores.

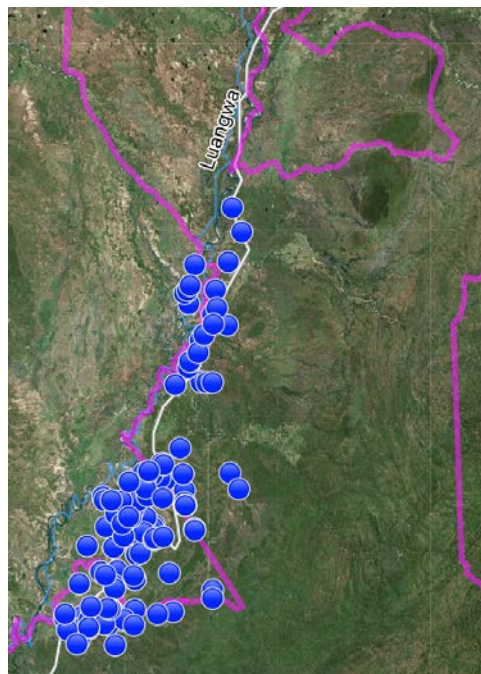
It was a great trip and we look forward to the next visit!

### **PDC Inc. Funds Satellite-GPS Collars for Two At-Risk Dog Packs**

Given that Painted dogs range widely and as a consequence often come into contact with human threats, being able to monitor them effectively is critical.

In the Luangwa one of our largest packs, the Mwasuke pack, has continually been hit hard with snaring and ranges widely over the northeastern sector of our study tract, even up to the Luambe National Park.

In Kafue our largest study pack, Tateyoyo, was first collared after the pack was found milling around a road-killed pup on the



high-speed highway bisecting the park. Satellite technology has improved considerably in recent years and can assist substantially in monitoring dogs and other wide-ranging carnivores.

Upon request by ZCP, PDC Inc funded the purchase of two Iridium Satellite-GPS collars for each of these packs, which have since been successfully deployed.

### **Aerial Support and De-snaring**

Collaborative work supporting wildlife vets, aerial support and field operations

Painted dog numbers in our Luangwa study site continued to be at record highs this year and the collaring of new packs and dispersing groups expanded our coverage in the Luangwa considerably and continued to indicate that much of Eastern Zambia is still functioning as a connected population.

A large part of the strong dog population



trends in our area, however, can be attributed to the collaborative anti-snaring work between CSL, the DNPW and ZCP, which allows for intensive monitoring of collared packs and dispersing groups by air and ground teams, rescue of snared dogs by our field-based CSL/ZCP veterinarian Dr. Sichande, and a strong anti-snare patrol presence by CSL/DNPW scouts in high-risk areas for dogs.

Collectively, PDC Inc. has supported our Zambian vet team, aerial operations and fieldwork that has substantially decreased the impacts of bushmeat poaching and snares on these species.

### **What is One Dog’s Life Worth? The Example of Painted Dog 73**

The Hot Springs pack has typically been the largest pack in our study area over the years and it has been led by their alpha male, 73.

The oldest recorded wild dog was 12 years old but he was at least two-years-old when we began studying him in 2008.

Snared and dying in 2014, the dog was rescued thanks to radio collars on the pack enabling us to find him.

To date this remarkable dog has been responsible for over 100 pups who have produced at least six more packs in the Luangwa.

### **Science-Based Guidance for Policy and Management**

In keeping with our emphasis on science-based conservation we published 4 scientific papers in 2017 to date, with a number pending.

The data for these papers was derived from fieldwork that was supported by PDC Inc. in a myriad of ways – ranging from supporting the field crew through the Conservation



Biologist Training Programme, to supporting our field-based Zambian wildlife vets, to keeping the vehicles and motorbikes on the road and planes in the air.

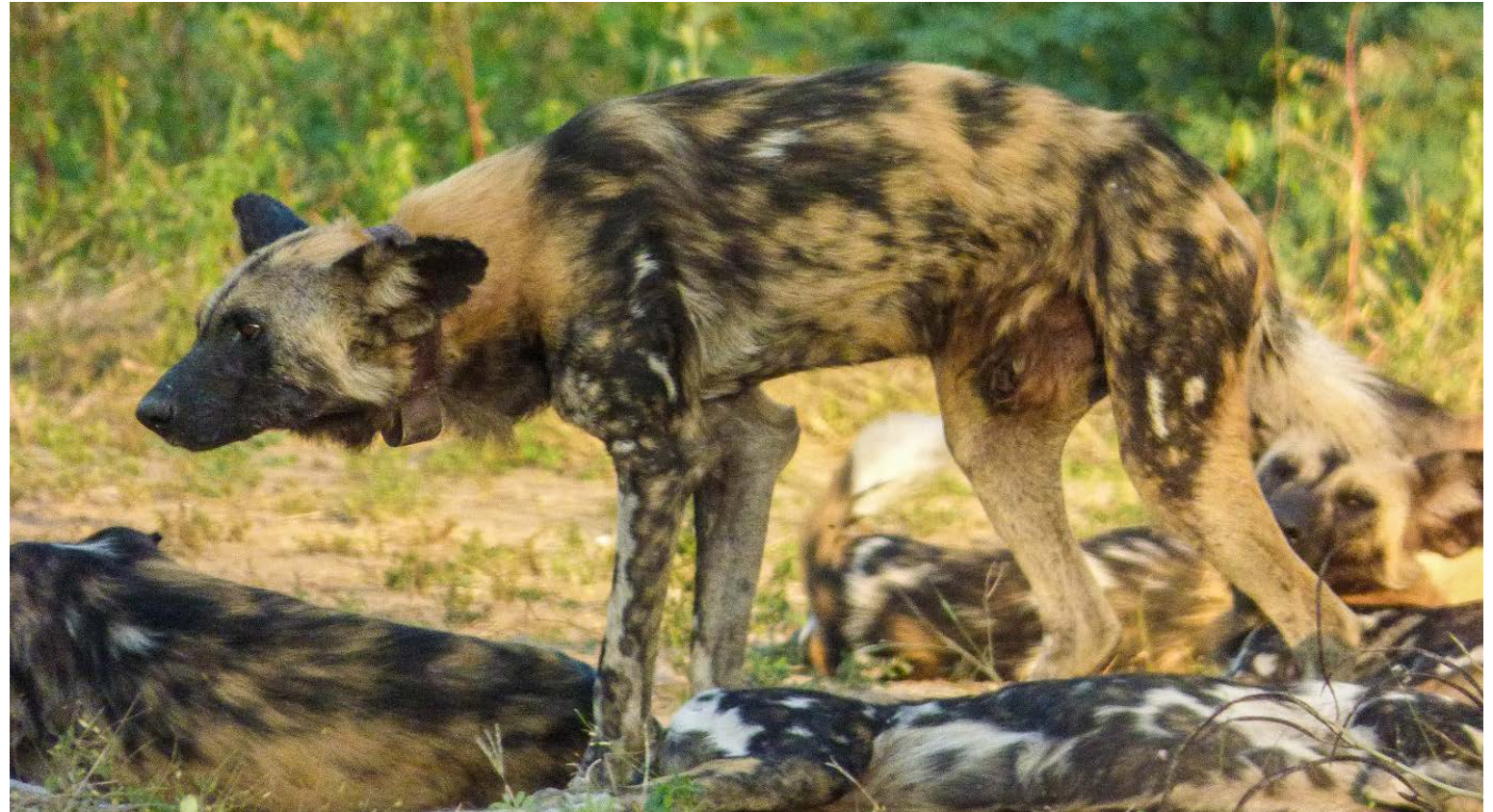
The findings and recommendations from these studies have both provided insights into the dynamics of large mammal ecology and immediate policy guidance for carnivore conservation, and the papers covered an array of topics including:

- ecological and anthropogenic factors affecting the distribution and abundance of large herbivores in Liuwa Plain
- the relationship between direct predation and predation risk effects in large mammal systems
- the relationship between long-term and short-term predation risk
- utilisation of detection dogs for surveying wide-ranging cheetah.

### Support “Behind the Scenes”

As usual PDC Inc. has been instrumental in providing ‘behind the scenes’ support to our operations in a myriad of ways to keep all the vital field activities critical to keeping the programme afloat going.

Most recently assistance with bike parts and Isuzu parts – both not easy to acquire and very expensive in Zambia – has been invaluable to continuing our collaborative work in Zambia.



Top: Painted Dog 73. Bottom: The team.



# Visit to Kevin Richardson's Sanctuary and Painted Dog Conservation in Zimbabwe

by PDC Inc. Vice Chairman Angela Lemon

In March 2017, I had the pleasure of visiting both Kevin Richardson's Sanctuary in South Africa, and Painted Dog Conservation in Zimbabwe, where our passion for saving our beloved Painted dogs started 17 years ago.



*"George" and "Yame" all grown up at Kevin's sanctuary.*

My first leg of the journey was a three-day stopover in South Africa to visit Kevin Richardson's Sanctuary. We have been working with Kevin since 2013, and it is always great to see the sanctuary in action and to catch up with Kevin, his team and of course to see how the not so little "George" and "Yame" are progressing. It is so lovely to see these two boys now all grown up – a long way from the two malnourished cubs on the streets of Spain being used in the cub petting industry.

It was fantastic to see a full team of volunteers on board, from all corners of the globe when I was there, and witnessed first-hand all of the duties they are involved in. In addition, whilst there Kevin and his team were



*Kevin and the team setting up the solar-powered camera traps.*

also organising for the deployment of Camera traps at his property, to further monitor movements around the perimeter of this property, and to detect any suspicious activity. Sadly, poaching of animals on private reserves in South Africa is an ongoing issue.

My next stop was Zimbabwe. Going back to where it all began always feels like "going home". It was fantastic to be amongst the bush again, the wildlife, and of course to be back with old friends. I spent time with Hilary, Jealous and Peter out tracking and was thrilled to locate the Nyamdhlovu pack and spend some time with them.

I also visited the Arts and Craft Centre whereby the snare



*Top: The Nyamadhlovu pack!*



wire moved from the bush is made into sculptures, jewellery and other items. Another great story whereby the PDC anti-poaching teams remove the deadly snares and they are transformed into something beautiful!

In addition, I was also guest of honour at the Wildlife Quiz Day for the local schools, with the winning teams going to



the national finals. It was great to see the knowledge and passion for the wildlife that all the children had, and it was also humbling to speak with them all about our passion for Africa, the Painted dogs and the role that they can all play in saving wildlife for the future.

The Rehabilitation Centre that John built 15 years ago is still standing strong and being used for rehabilitation of injured Painted dogs. During my stay, there were couple of inhabitants – “Fran”, who had recently had her leg amputated due to a horrific snare injury, and “Thembile”, who had been in the centre for many months also recovering from a snare injury.



*The new radio collar fitted onto Fran.*

I was honoured to be present to release Thembile back into the wild. We set up nets in the rehab centre so that we could direct Thembile into a smaller area, to allow her to be anaesthetised so that a radio collar could be fitted prior to release.

As her wounds had headed well, it was time to say goodbye. Peter and his team fitted the new radio collar, reversed the anaesthetic and she was on her way. Needless to say this was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and further reinforced the value that the Rehabilitation Centre plays in the future of the Painted dogs in Zimbabwe.

Thanks to Air Mauritius for making this field trip possible.



*Top: The healed snare wound on Fran's neck. Bottom: Fran the day after her release.*



# Past Events

## An Evening with Marini Ferlazzo

On 27 April 2017 we held an exclusive dinner event with Nathan Ferlazzo from Marini Ferlazzo.

Apart from dinner, drinks and drawing with Nathan Ferlazzo himself, we will also auctioned off some very special items including four limited edition framed Marini Ferlazzo prints, framed artist's proof by Fuz Caforio, stunning feather art by Amanda Mulder, Gogo Olive hand-knitted items from Zimbabwe, exclusive Ocean Sole Sculptures from Kenya-made from recycled thongs washed up on shore, new items from the Painted Dog Conservation Art Centre in Zimbabwe, bracelets from Creations 4 Wildlife, pottery from Zinongo Gallery and much more!

A great night was had by all and after participating in the drawing exercise with Nathan we are convinced he will remain one of Australia's premier artists.



Right Top Clockwise: L-R: Scott Carne (Kids In The Kitchen), Brian Mannix (Uncanny X-Men), Tottie Goldsmith (The Chantoozies) and David Sterry (Real Life). Angela with Scott Carne of Kids In the Kitchen and David Sterry of Real Life. John with Tottie Goldsmith from "The Chantoozies".



## Absolutely 80s

On 9 June at the Newport Hotel in Fremantle, PDC Inc. teamed up with the ABSOLUTELY 80s Presents to celebrate our Fundraising milestone of raising \$1.25 million dollars over the past eight years!

Over 130 people attended to experience the ultimate 80s party band, boasting some of the biggest and best Australian acts, performing all of their hits. Our line-up featured Scott Carne (Kids in the Kitchen), Brian Mannix (Uncanny X Men), Tottie Goldsmith (Chantoozies) and David Sterry (Real Life). All proceeds from the night went to our field projects.

## An Evening with Mental As Anything

Following on from our Celebratory Concert with Absolutely 80s, we continued the theme with Friends Restaurant generously donating a decadent three-course dinner for two and Mental As Anything Concert Experience on 31 August. After an online auction the funds raised were donated to our supported project in Zambia- Conservation Conservation South Luangwa and in particular to the Working Dogs for Conservation program.

Thanks to Friends Restaurant, one of Perth's finest restaurants, for their donation.





# Presentation to Dr Jane Goodall

On 10 June we had the honour of meeting legendary Dr Jane Goodall and presented her with an Honorary Life Membership Plaque, in addition to a beaded Snare Wire Painted Dog made at the Iganyana Arts Centre in Zimbabwe.

We raised \$4000 last year for the 25th Anniversary of her Roots & Shoots campaign. Jane has also worked with our beloved Painted Dogs and written two books on them – "Solo" and "Innocent Killers". Dr Goodall kindly signed John's precious copy today and it was this book that kick started John's passion all those years ago.

Dr Goodall was in Perth for public speaking functions but also to speak with Children from her Roots & Shoots Campaign, a global network of young people taking action to improve our world. It is a youth-led action program that is currently making a difference in nearly 100 countries. It builds on Dr Goodall's legacy and vision of placing the power and responsibility for creating solutions to big challenges in the hands of the young people.

All around the world today, youth are exploring problems in their communities around animals, people and the environment, brainstorming solutions and creating projects that help to solve the problems.

Roots & Shoots is a program that is different for each and every member around the world. For instance, a project that works for inner city kids in Australia is going to differ enormously from a project in remote towns in Uganda.

Dr Goodall still remains a constant inspiration for ourselves and the current generation of budding conservationists.



# JCVD

We at PDC Inc are very excited to announce we are now supported by none other than Jean-Claude Van Damme.

We are thrilled to share this honour with Kevin Richardson and Dr. Jane Goodall.

We are humbled by his support and thank

him for his commitment and passion for saving, protecting and advocacy for all animals.

Visit [jcvdworld.com/species.html](http://jcvdworld.com/species.html) to find out more. Stay tuned for future developments!





# Special Thanks

## Running for Wild Dogs

In 1996, a group of schoolboys set off on a 1,000km-run across Zimbabwe to raise funds for the conservation of African Wild Dogs.

The boys completed the run, generated significant interest in an animal not commonly known to be endangered, and raised a staggering \$47,000 to support conservation efforts.

Those boys are now men. In December 2016, they reunited to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the event by completing the run again. The intent was the same – to do something meaningful to protect one of Africa's most iconic animals. A forgotten species. A species that doesn't generate the same attention as rhinos or elephants, yet is equally as important.

Engaging the next generation is a critical part of the project so it won't just be the original guys doing the 2016 run. Twenty students from the Peterhouse Group of Schools also too part—becoming a vital link from the past to the future as the responsibility of doing everything possible to avoid Painted Dogs being wiped out forever is shared.

Through this run, the team at Running for Wild Dogs raised over \$11,000 for our two supported projects in Zimbabwe: Painted Dog Conservation and African Wildlife Conservation Fund.

A main driving force of Running for Wild Dogs is Andrew McFarlane, and PDC Inc. Vice Chairman Angela Lemon had the pleasure in meeting him in Adelaide in July this year. Andrew's passion for wildlife, and Painted Dogs in particular, is evident and we are humbled by his support of what we do.

## Major Thanks

We're giving a shout out to long-time supporters and major donors National Zoo and Aquarium and Humane Society International (Australia).

Due to the hard work and dedication of National Zoo and Aquarium staff, they contribute heavily to breeding programs that can help save a number of animals from extinction. They also raise money through their National Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Trust (NZACT) to donate to a number of local and overseas conservation initiatives and charities.

PDC Inc. is honoured to have received a substantial donation from NZACT to fund tracking collars for our field work in Zambia. To donate to their Conservation Trust visit [nationalzoo.com.au/get-involved/conservation](http://nationalzoo.com.au/get-involved/conservation).

Humane Society International Australia have renewed an already long term MOU with us to financial assist our supported project Painted Dog Conservation in Zimbabwe to continue its anti-poaching and detector dog programs. [www.hsi.org.au](http://www.hsi.org.au)  
Thanks to Michael and Verna for their ongoing support!

## The Platter Project

In March 2017, Painted Dog Conservation Inc were thrilled to partner with the Wilkinson family of South Africa.

In June 2013, Di Wilkinson, mother of three, was diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease and immediately required dialysis three times a week for five hours at a time. Furthermore, she requires a life-saving kidney transplant. Unfortunately, none of her family members are compatible and,

with less than 1% of the South African population registered as organ donors, her future is rather uncertain.

Refusing to give up on life and motivated by her passion for wildlife, Di recently started painting beautiful, large platters with different wild animals on them.

Her children, unbeknownst to her, posted one of her platters on a social media platform, which received an overwhelming positive response and so #ThePlatterProject was born.

#ThePlatterProject aims to create awareness around wildlife conservation and organ donation through the personal journey of the Wilkinson family.

Di generously painted and donated a stunning platter of a beautiful Painted Dog, of which we held an online auction for our frontline conservation activities.

Thank you to Di and her entire family for helping us raise over \$1000!

Keep up the incredible work!



## YANG AFRICA supports Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

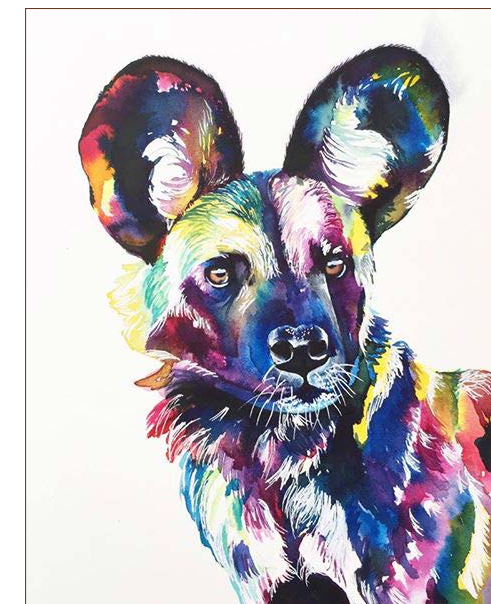
Many thanks to Amanda Weatherlake of Yang Africa for her continued support.

Amanda is a talented Victorian artist who has donated her artwork to us at Painted Dog Conservation Inc. in the past to help us raise funds for our conservation work.

In August 2017, Amanda chose to nominate ourselves, Tikki Hywood Trust in Zimbabwe, and Conservation Ecology Centre as recipients of donated funds through her Endangered Animals Collection online sale.

Thank you to Amanda for helping us raise over \$600 for our supported projects in Africa.

We also featured her stunning artwork as special auction items at our events with Kevin Richardson–The Lion Whisperer in October.







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

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

### ***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**

