

SAVE NEWSLETTER



MAY 2010



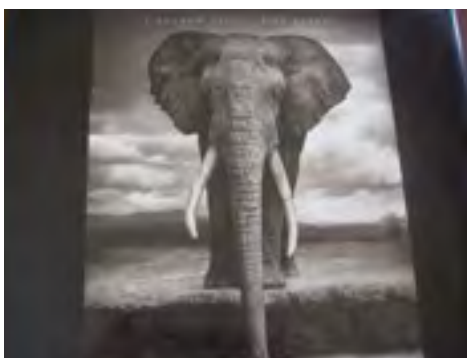
www.thesavefoundation.org.au

This is our website which has been produced for us by a great supporter of the foundation Shane Bruce. When you do have a look at the site do steel yourself to watch the video as it really sums up why we are here and working so hard to raise funds to save the magnificent black rhino from extinction.

A great start to the year with Wayne Hamilton crossing the Tasman to present a powerpoint presentation on Save and the rhino reintroduction programme in Botswana to the New Plymouth Rotary and Lions clubs. This invitation came as a result of Wayne and Tony Park enjoying a few beers in the Kruger National Park with Fred and Daryl both New Zealanders who donated generously on the night. Well done!



Soccer fever is hitting the streets of Johannesburg, Durban and Capetown. If you are going over for the soccer in June/July a visit to Hluhluwe-Umfolozi just 3 hours north of Durban would be well worth your time as the reserve has established numbers of both white and black rhino.



Recently I was lucky enough to purchase this book "A Shadow Falls" by Nick Brandt.

Stunning black and white images with some particularly poignant ones of black rhinos.

Brandt poses the question in the book of what a tragedy it will be for future generations if the only animals they see are in print. The shadow falling across the land is our own as there are no animals left - they don't have the resources we do to survive.

Liz Hall, Save Foundation Committee Member recently visited Western Plains Zoo and recounts her experience

“A Clayton’s African experience memorable beyond our dreams”

At last year’s (fundraiser) my friend Karen and I bought at auction a Taronga Western Plains Zoo VIP experience. This included an overnight stay at the award winning Zoofari lodge plus three very special VIP sessions with the keepers of the Greater One-horned Rhino (GOHR), White Rhinoceros and Black Rhinoceros. The Zoofari Experience itself includes a Sunset Safari, Zoo Under Spotlight tour and an early morning Jaunt Tour.

We were met at the airport by Shallon McReaddie, the zoo’s wonderful public relations and promotions manager who put together our fabulous itinerary and really took care of us. We were taken immediately to meet Kristy Murray the keeper of the male GOHR Dora (actually named Dragon by the Nagoya zoo, but pronounced “Dor-ragon-San by the Japanese keepers – hence Dora!) and Amala, the female. These beasts have a bumpy skin, which inspired the Rudyard Kipling’s Just-so story “How the Rhinoceros got his skin”. Her rear-end was just crying out to be photographed. To experience “back of house” with the passionate keepers is a memory that will last forever. They take the best of care with their animals and love them like their own.

The lodges at Zoofari are large tents alongside the Savannah plain, so we were able to watch zebra and eland graze in the afternoon sunset. The sunset tour took in the spotted dogs, Galapagos tortoise who loved a tickle under the chin, lion and lionesses playing with balls, and feeding carrots to giraffes. Oh my goodness just how long their tongues are!

Cocktails in the lounge of the main house were followed by a fantastic 3 course meal, then off to the Zoo Under Spotlight tour, where we met the Sumatran tiger, maned wolf with its gorgeous colour hair, a hippopotamus and even a wombat.

The lodges have underfloor heating so are very cosy, and we slept well with the occasional night noises from the animals. Waking up to the sunrise over the savannah was exhilarating with the zebras early morning feed.

After an all too large delicious breakfast we experienced the Early Morning Jaunt which took in the siaman apes, Asian elephants, the bongo, hippo, and cheetahs

We then met with Simone the white rhino keeper who also looks after the giraffes. We bailed out the lucerne for their daily feed and learnt about her daily duties as a keeper seeing just how much they adore their charges.

Whilst with the black rhino keepers Katie and Karen we were able touch Bakhita, mother of the adorable Kufara and even put our fingers in the baby’s mouth....she is just so cute to watch. We walked around the large compound of segregated black rhinos and it was so interesting to learn about their different personalities and see just how well they are respected as wild animals.

We came away feeling very blessed by the experience, and wanting to do more for the endangered species of the world. One thing for sure is, we will be back!



RHINO NEWS FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

South Africa - Two female rhinos killed with overdose tranquilizer dart shot from helicopter, horns cut off
[Click here to read the full story](#)

From the evidence collected at the crime scene it is apparent that the perpetrators used a dart gun to kill the animals and that they were in a helicopter. The rhinos were overdosed with tranquilizers and killed.

South Africa - 31 rhinos killed so far this year
[Click here to read the full story](#)

According to Juan de Beer, manager of the protected species unit at the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), 31 rhinos have been killed in the country so far this year.

South Africa - Environmental management investigators say they are losing the battle against green crimes including rhino poaching
[Click here to read the full story](#)

Environmental management inspectors say they are battling to prevent a large number of environmental crimes, many committed by well-organised syndicates serving markets in the Far East. The deputy director-general for legal research and development at the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ziyaad Hassan, said environmental offences "are seldom committed out of need". "It's a battle we don't seem to be winning and it is a huge concern for us," he said.

South Africa - Account of an Southern white rhino capture operation in Kruger National Park
[Click here to read the full story](#)

I was fortunate to be invited to join colleagues at Wildlife Veterinary Operations of the Kruger Research Centre to take part in a white rhino capture in this South African reserve.

South Africa - President Zuma calls for investigation into Malema's claims, after ex-Sars employee is accused of rhino poaching
[Click here to read the full story](#)

President Jacob Zuma has raised concern and wants Julius Malema's claims of a politically explosive intelligence report to be investigated, and says the ANC Youth League president has explained his business dealings.

South Africa - Three rhinos killed in tourist reserve in Limpopo Province
[Click here to read the full story](#)

The baby rhino, an orphan, had barely been weaned. Her horn was only a few inches long. But that didn't stop the poachers from hacking it off. David Uys, 33, had helped raise the rhino after her mother was killed by lightning. He called her Weerkind -- orphan in Afrikaans. He won't forget the sight of the bodies of the baby and two other rhinos, shot dead, their horns removed.

South Africa - Tourist in Kruger National Park spots rhino with its horns removed by poachers; animal later dies
[Click here to read the full story](#)

A startled tourist alerted game rangers to the animal, the first time a poached rhino had been found still alive at Kruger National Park. "That was really the first case that I know of where we found a rhino which the horn was removed and it was struggling on the road," said Kruger spokesman William Mabasa.

South Africa - Suspected rhino poachers in Kruger National Park sentenced for 10 years for possession of illegal firearms
[Click here to read the full story](#)

Two men accused of poaching rhinoceros have been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the Nelspruit Regional Court for possession of illegal weapons. The court has yet to rule on the charges of poaching against Joao Mdlovu and Berlito Mdlovu, who were arrested in January. Mdlovu is also standing trial in the same court on separate charges of poaching with

Kenya - Rhino shot in poaching attempt at Lewa over Christmas finally succumbs to injuries
Click here to read the full story

On Friday, 5 March, Tana, the nine-year-old black rhino who had been shot and injured by armed poachers on 26 December, 2009, finally gave up her fight for life and died. Tana had been wounded in the shoulder and a second black rhino, Ntoiye, was fatally shot in that same poaching incident on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Kenya - Update on the four Northern white rhinos at Ol Pejeta Conservancy
Click here to read the full story

In December 2009, four of the last eight northern white rhinos left on earth were moved from captivity at Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic to a new breeding project in Kenya. Although it is yet to be officially announced, northern white rhinos are now effectively extinct in the wild and the breeding project, based at Ol Pejeta in northern Kenya, represents the last chance to save the species from extinction.

Zimbabwe - Release on bail of six alleged rhino poachers arrested in Bubyane Conservancy (Lowveld) is a shocking failure by Zimbabwe Click here to read the full story's courts

The release of six alleged rhino poachers from custody two weeks before a meeting of the largest wildlife trade convention is emblematic of the chronic lack of political will to enact enforcement efforts required to save this endangered species. A Zimbabwean court last week granted bail to six men arrested at Bubyane Valley Conservancy in connection with rhino poaching. Charges included illegal possession of firearms and illegal possession of a rhino horn.

Uganda - Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary 3 hours north of Kampala despite limited funding has 7 rhinos under its protection. Rhinos have been extinct in Uganda since 1982 when they were completely wiped out by poaching. The goal is to reintroduce rhino into Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth national Parks.

www.rhinofund.org

Zimbabwe - Interpol's spotlight falls on Zimbabwe's poor record of poaching prosecutions
Click here to read the full story

Zimbabwe is among 18 countries being investigated for complicity in a racket involving the illegal trade in traditional medicines containing protected wildlife products, the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) that is coordinating the probe has announced.

HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER READING THAT RHINO UPDATE? I HAVE TEARS IN MY EYES AND DETERMINATION IN MY HEART THAT WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO PRESERVE THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES FROM EXTINCTION. PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW - THE RHINOS NEED OUR HELP NOW!



Tshukudu Game Lodge www.tshukudulodge.co.za donated a 2 night stay for 2 at our last fundraiser. A tragic car accident claimed the life of the owner Ala Sussens and her 52 year old son Ian Sussens on the 6th April. They were laid to rest at Tshukudu on April 10th. They will be sorely missed amongst their family, friends and the conservation community. Ala's life story "A Window Full Of Elephant" was published last year and if you can get a hold of a copy it is a fascinating read.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Some exciting events are currently in the planning stages and details will be released soon on our website. We are also looking at setting up a page on Facebook so we can interact with you on a more regular basis. Bye for now, Cheryl Smith