

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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MARCH 2003

WELCOME TO THE SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT IN 2003

Greetings to you all, hope this finds you well. I do apologise for the lapse in our newsletter production, my goal was a January issue, but time slipped away on me.

Our news in the Oct 02 issue about the Javan Gibbon Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre having their official opening ceremony did not happen. The tragedy in Bali, affected those plans and now the looming threat of war with Iraq is also casting a big shadow on our work in Java. Michelle Wild and I are making plans to travel to Java in March. The main purpose of our visit is to meet with our colleagues in Java over coffee, lunch etc and get to understand their situation better and how we can further support their conservation work and their education programs to encourage Indonesian support for their heritage. Both of us will use our own frequent flyer points to travel and SGP will only have a small amount to expend to cover hotel and internal transportation.

Construction at the Bodogol site has come to a halt at this stage. However, our Veterinarian Ida Yuniati is now on site, with two gibbons in her capable care. 'Mel' was transferred to another facility. We now have 'Wali' the cutest 18 month old male, and 'Chimoy' a 12 year old female. The centre has started to introduce, to their diet, around 12 different species of leaf and fruit collected from the forest. This data was already known from the wild population of gibbons in Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park. Clinically both of them are healthy. Plus we have Mulya and Iwan, two local people being trained as Keepers, again under Ida's capable supervision. Dianne ☺☺☺

RATNA'S VISIT TO THE JAVAN GIBBON CENTRE, 9 JAN 2003

On one of those beautiful mornings, I visited the Javan Gibbon Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Bodogol. It took us just an hour and a bit from Jakarta to the Centre –no traffic jam!!!!. I was met by the security guard in his freshly pressed uniform. He had been told that there is an important visitor coming!! His job is more of a night-watchperson.

Ida Yuniati, the veterinarian and her two 'in-training' keepers took me to see Chimoy and Wali in their quarantine cages. Chimoy is a beautiful female. Her face is rounded and her facial hair seems much longer than our silveries at Perth Zoo. She did not seem worried with me watching. Wali, on the other hand, was quite wary. He huddled himself in the corner and peeked at me now and then. He still sleeps on a pillow with a blanket every night. He is so cute. I bought him a teddy bear so he can cuddle it, instead of himself.

The site is very beautiful. A little bit bare of greenery, but Ida and her staff are planting it with local trees. There are two buildings in the area. One is the clinic and the other is the office. We sat at the office, talked about the project while we drank coconut freshly picked from the yard, and looked at the beautiful surroundings. The national park is about 7 km away, but there is a little bit of forest not far away, where the keepers can pick leaves for Chimoy and Wali. It was so quiet and cool. There is a deep ravine behind the office where a small river runs. They said that they could hear,

although faintly, the gibbons' calls from the national park. Those calls have had an impact on Chimoy. She has started singing, although she does it at any time, mostly whenever she is hungry. Hopefully she is able to learn that she is supposed to sing in the morning and in the afternoon.

I had to leave, I wished I could have stayed the night, to enjoy the surroundings. Next time, I will definitely have my sleeping bag and camp in the office. Hopefully, Chimoy will sing at the right time by then. Ratna.

SILVERY SUNDOWNER

THURSDAY MARCH 13TH

**JOIN THE SILVERY GIBBON GROUP FOR A PICNIC
BRING YOUR OWN DINNER, DRINKS, BLANKET, CHAIR**

THERE ARE BBQ'S

**THURSDAY MARCH 13TH, FROM 4.30PM:-:UNTIL DARK
SIR JAMES MITCHELL PARK, EAST END OF THE ESPLANADE
NEAR MENDS STREET JETTY, SOUTH PERTH**

A CASUAL GATHERING TO SAY 'HELLO'

MEET OLD OR NEW FRIENDS

BRING FOLKS WHO MAY LIKE TO JOIN THE SGP

'GIBBON GEAR' WILL BE ON SALE

PLUS A RAFFLE

GGG ??? GIBBON GEAR GROUP!!

All the great merchandise the SGP has for sale is the result of the merchandise sub-committee, also known as the Gibbon Gear Group (GGG). The GGG is currently looking for people to help out in a number of areas. Not only do we hold a market stall at Kalamunda Village Market, we also design and develop the merchandise we have for sale (including t-shirts, tea-towels, toys, books and mugs). We sell SGP products on the Internet and are also working to develop a mail-order catalogue.

If you can contribute on any of these fronts and have a few spare hours each fortnight, why not give Shalini a call on 9313 4205 or email <shal_bellas@yahoo.com> to offer your help. All skills very welcome!

JUKASS SOFT TOYS Our fellow Docent, Karen Clarke has recently made SGP a prototype of a soft Silvery Gibbon to add to our great merchandise range. An Indonesian manufacturing company will then produce this gibbon in larger numbers.

Ask Karen to make a special soft toy or animal costume to your design. Tel 9277 7095.

**GREAT GROUP GETTING GIBBON GEAR GOING,
GIVING GIBBONS GIFTS TO GROW GENERATIONS IN GREEN.**

Silvery Gibbon can take you to Indonesia, June 2003 →→→→

For the third year in a row, planning is under way for the next Indonesian visit in June 2003. This is the opportunity of a lifetime, so come with us to Java to hear and see the delightful silvery gibbon in its natural environment and experience the tropical rainforests of Indonesia.

We will visit some of the few remaining habitats of the silvery gibbon, as well as the Javan Gibbon Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, which is currently being built. We will visit some magnificent national parks, with forests that are home to many species of birds, (such as the fascinating hornbill and the beautiful but sadly, critically endangered, Javan Hawk eagle), reptiles, mammals and a host of rainforest plants. The tour will leave Perth in June 2003, and last for approximately two weeks. The costs are still being calculated, but rest-assured, you will definitely be getting excellent value for money on a SGP organised trip!

Silvery Gibbon offers Madagascar & Mauritius Trip, September 2003

Yes, we are planning a fabulous trip to Madagascar for later this year. There are no gibbons in Madagascar (you knew that, right?), but we're going there anyway, in search of one of the most unique group of primates, the lemurs. Ever seen the wonderful dancing sifaka, or been up close and personal with a ring-tailed lemur? This is your opportunity to join a fully organised trip, specifically designed for SGP, to see these and many other wonderful animals in their natural habitat. Specific parks include Berenty, Ranomafana, Perinet, Ampijoroa, with a brief excursion to the Betsiboka Delta for some birding.

Now, a word of warning, the roads in Madagascar are reportedly not good, so the most efficient way to travel to some places is by air. This will, of course, add to the cost of our trip. However, our rationale is that if you are going to go to a place so far away and you are spending that much to get there, why not make it a trip that you'll treasure forever. And this will be such a trip.

The cost will be **around** \$6600pp (almost everything included!) and a provisional itinerary is now available. The trip will be for about 28 days, 6 nights in Mauritius and 21 nights in Madagascar. Places are limited, so please, contact us as soon as possible.

For further details on these trips, or to register your interest, please contact either:

- Ratna, ph. 9310 7352, or ratnasulastin@hotmail.com or
- Michelle, ph. 9243 5369, or wildfire@iinet.net.au

ROBIN WINGRAVE LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

We have the opportunity of an agreement with Robin to share the profits of his stunning prints of various primates. His artistic talent is excellent and he is also very committed to helping our conservation work for the Silvery Gibbon.

The question we need to have answered though, 'Is there a market out there?' Do we have a person with Market research skills amongst our readers of this newsletter?

Please call me on 9293 3052 if you have any such skills or even ideas about this venture.

ANZ BANK ASSISTANCE

We were recently delighted to receive a letter from our ANZ Bank advising us that they have reduced the merchant service fee. This is the fee we pay to process your credit card transactions. This is now reduced to 2% of the amount donated or paid to the SGP. Our 'Thanks' has been extended to the Bank and we trust we may encourage even more support in the future.

ART AUCTION & HARRY POTTER MAKE GOOD PROFITS

The Silvery Gibbon Art Auction in Nov 02, did well, with a profit of \$6558 banked for Silvery Gibbon Conservation. However, we are having a re-think about the format of the Auction and looking to make improvements for the coming year. Thank you letters and cards have been sent, but we are always very pleased to say 'Thank you again' for all the very generous support from our friends.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets was a great movie and we had a full house and more!!! Silvery Gibbon supporters again had a great evening and we extend our sincere 'Thanks' to the Astor Cinema and all our SGP ladies, who work so hard at the show. A special 'Thanks' to John Szymakowski who was our man of the moment, and contributed the muscle needed on the night. Linda Shone leads the Movie Team, she sold all the tickets and then flew out to Africa, confident of her Team to be their best, as usual. Profit: \$2632!! Well done, folks, Thank you all again. Look out for our next blockbuster!!!

YOUR COMPUTER SKILLS

Are you one of these marvellous folks who enjoy the time you spend working on your computer?? Would you consider spending some of your computer time on Silvery Gibbon Conservation tasks?? We do need some extra help in this area.

Please call Michelle on 9243 5369 or Dianne on 9293 3052 and lets talk.

YOUR SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT COMMITTEE

Our members may remember Dr Rosemary Markham's request at the AGM in August, to be able to stand down from the position of Treasurer. We take pleasure in advising our members that our finances will now be in the very trusty hands of Ms Josie Fern. Currently working with the Fire and Emergency Dept in Perth, Josie had been Head cashier at the Zoo for many years and has been a Silvery Gibbon supporter from our beginnings.

Another founding member, Rob Leivers, has recently resigned from the position of Vice-President. Rob and his family have purchased a parcel of land in Orange Grove and Rob wishes to spend more time on his land. Rosemary and Rob will both continue to provide Silvery Gibbon Project with advice, guidance and support. We extend our very sincere 'Thanks' to these two founding members for their huge commitment over the first 12 years of the Silvery Gibbon Project.

Leif Cocks, the International Silvery Gibbon Studbook keeper, also recently resigned from our main Committee, however thankfully, we still have his expertise and knowledge available working with Ratna and Michelle on the Javan Sub-committee. This group is responsible for coordinating our contribution on Java, very important work and producing excellent results.

Our last committee meeting, appointed Ms Shalini Bellas to be our Vice-President, until the August elections. Welcome to Josie and thanks to Shalini and Josie for taking on the extra commitment for Silvery Gibbon Conservation.

CAN YOU SUPPORT THE COMPANIES THAT ASSIST THE SGP?

BYFIELDS, Certified Practising Accountants, Charles Street, South Perth.

This partnership of accountants are our Auditors, and have been extremely efficient and supportive of the Silvery Gibbon Project. Tel 9474 1444.

DAD & DAVE'S MANNING HARDWARE have been most helpful with 'in kind' donations to construct stands to display our range of small prints at the Kalamunda Markets. Personal service at Shop 8/27 Welwyn Ave, Manning. Tel 9450 2665.

LMG SCIENTIFIC SERVICES OF BALCATT assisted the SGP recently with the provision of two fully serviced microscopes for the clinic in Bodogol. Our sincere 'Thanks' to Mr Mel James for his kind assistance. An expert service and repair of microscopes and histo/pathology equipment is provided by Mel's company. Tel 9349 0397.