

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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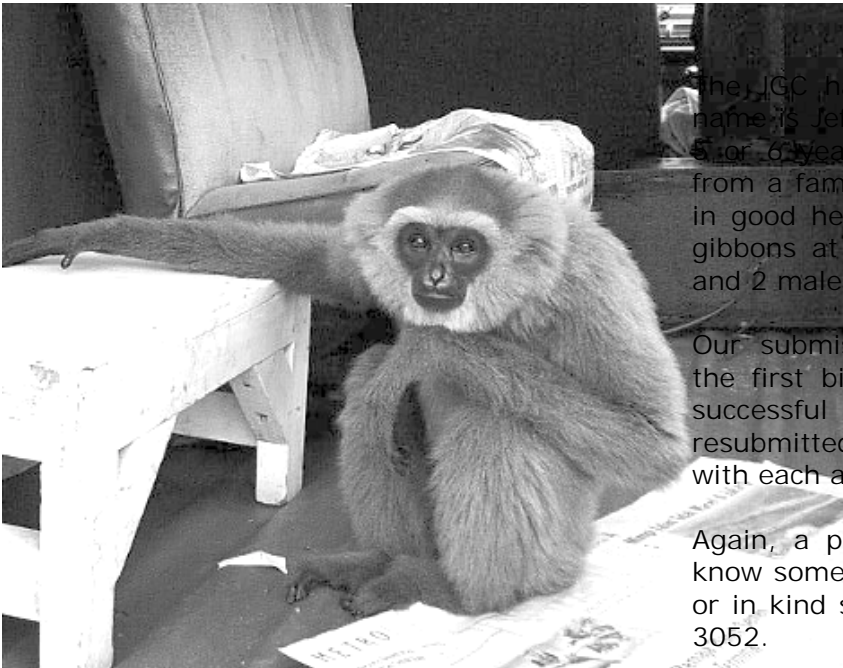
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SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT EXTENDS OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS, ENJOYING TIME WITH FRIENDS

NEW MALE GIBBON FOR OUR JAVAN GIBBON CENTRE



The JGC has a new resident gibbon. His name is Jeffrey and is believed to be about 5 or 6 years old. He came to the centre from a family in Jakarta and appears to be in good health. This brings the number of gibbons at the centre to four - 2 females and 2 males.

Our submissions for funding to construct the first bigger enclosures have not been successful at this date, however, they are resubmitted for the next approval round with each agency.

Again, a plea from your President, if you know someone who may help with financial or in kind support, please call me on 9293 3052.

At our last committee meeting we have approved sending A\$15,000. to the JGC to cover the operating costs for the next 6 months. We are also sending the second payment of A\$4,000 to fund the Mobile Education Unit for the next six months. We are thrilled with the success of this Mobile Education Unit, moving out and around the villages and schools in Javan Gibbon habitat and telling the conservation story. Their arrival is greeted with keen interest from the children and the adults wanting to understand and learn about their own environment.

THE SILVERY GIBBON ART AUCTION

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND

'TOMPKINS ON SWAN', ALFRED COVE

**SUNDAY, LATE AFTERNOON, ENJOY THE SEABREEZE BY THE SWAN
AND CHOOSE FROM A VIBRANT CHOICE OF EXCELLENT ARTWORK
PLEASE BOOK YOUR DIARY NOW.**

PERTH TO MADAGASCAR, A NEW ADVENTURE



Madagascar – the fourth largest island in the world: - the red island – its life sustaining soil bleeding into its rivers. A land sorely degraded through the forces of nature and the slash and burn subsistence habits of its human inhabitants who have been eking out a living on it for about 1500 years.

Millenniums ago Madagascar parted from Africa during the breaking apart of Gondwana. It is estimated to have about 12 000 species of animals and plants of which 98% of amphibians, 90% of reptiles, 55% of birds and 97% of its mammals are endemic, as are 80% of its angiosperms and 45% of its ferns. Tragically it is also estimated that only about 10% of its natural vegetation still survives and much of that is degraded.

It is of paramount importance to protect what is left of this land of mega diversity and this is the challenge that confronts its people, specifically its government and its Bureau of National Parks and Forests.

Eco tourism is one ray of hope in the battle for survival and in this endeavour 12 of us, through the Silvery Gibbon Project set off for 21 days in Madagascar.

What a magical trip. We ranged in age from 26 – 67ish and every minute of it was great. We camped, tramped, climbed, scrambled, squelched, grunted, wheezed and laughed through hot, dry, flat, deciduous forest and wet, cold, mountainous rainforest, across hard, dry savanna, up steep sandstone wonderfully wind sculptured and massive, through breathtaking gorges festooned with hanging ferns and into weird, spiny forests.

We marvelled and delighted as we observed lemurs – tiny nocturnal mouse lemurs; large, soft footed sportive lemurs; big teddy bear looking indris; diadem; verreaux and coquerel dancing sifakas; red fronted and woolly brown lemurs; ruffed lemurs and bandit looking ringtails. Chameleons ranging from 3cm to about 30; a variety of colourful lizards; a couple of beautiful green tree boas and hog nosed snakes (amongst others); tiny orange frogs and a large fat tomato frog; birds of numerous types, sizes and varieties as well as reticulated, spider and ploughshare tortoises.

A particular thrill was to watch a seriously annoyed out of season, highland streaked tenrec rapidly flipping his yellow head spines over his forehead in what must be a terrifying sight to somebody of his own size. We saw two very fine young civet cats one night, but unfortunately only saw fossa and aye aye in the zoo.

In the parks we met researchers happy to share with us details of their work and wherever we went we found the Malagasy people gentle and friendly. Our guides were knowledgeable and most passionate about their work.

Our tour guide, Michelle, was a great hostess and ensured that the whole trip ran without a hitch, great value, great fun and we were still helping Silvery Gibbon Conservation. Of course that's only a snippet of what we enjoyed. Telling does it no justice.

The only thing to say is GO AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.

Thanks to Pat Elder for her article.

SGP will be hosting a slide and video evening, about our journey, on Jan 30th at the Perth Zoo Theatre, please mark your diaries now.

ZOOTOBER – THANKS TO THE PERTH ZOO FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY

During the October school holidays, SGP had a display at the silvery gibbon enclosure at the Perth Zoo. The purpose of the display was to raise the awareness of visitors to the plight of the silvery gibbon and to inform them of the efforts being made both here, and in Java by SGP, to assist this species. The display generated a lot of interest from visitors. We had colouring in for children, boards with current information about JGC and brochures for all.

The gibbon family turned on all their tricks for their visitors, 'Sinta' the infant is now allowed away from Hecla and delights in teasing her older brother and sister. They too, are just as glad to get their hands on her, she has been protected by Hecla for so long and at last they can get to know her.

The display was manned by a terrific bunch of volunteers during the week it was operational, many thanks to all who helped out and made it another special part of Zootober.

BANANA PAPER OR FIBRE COULD CHANGE THE WASTE OF CUTTING NATIVE FORESTS

Australian ingenuity shows us an opportunity to make real changes in the misuse of native timber. A young company in Queensland is doing just that, with a innovative and environmentally sound business plan to utilise banana stems, after fruit harvest, to produce a marvellous new type of paper or fibre, product. They have had wonderful reviews about the concept from the likes of Landline and other ABC programmes. They have major commercial orders already pledged but no major financier at this point.

This article comes from spending time with Jo Doeke, one of our Madagascar tour participants, she is a dedicated and resourceful women with complete ethical integrity.

If you want Australia to lead the way with big projects that can really benefit our planet, please have a look at their website, www.transformaustralia.com.au or call Jo Doeke on 07 4095 1139.



RSPCA recently awarded Silvery Gibbon Project, along with Free the Bears and Geoff Sandel Certificates of Merit for their Services to Animal Welfare.

THE NEXT SILVERY GIBBON CONSERVATION TOURS

Madagascar 2004. Another wonderful trip is planned for October next year. See many varieties of lemurs and chameleons, the dancing sifaka and the wonderful landscape that is Madagascar. If you are interested in joining this trip, please contact us to register your interest and be kept informed as we plan and confirm the trip. Time to start saving now.

Vietnam 2004. Vietnam has gibbons also, although not silveries. Join us on a 21 day trip to see some of the best National Parks that Vietnam has to offer. Planned departure is November. Itinerary and costing is in progress. Please register your interest now.

Contact Michelle on 9243 5369 or email wildfire@iinet.net.au

For Sale

IMB electric typewriter. Good condition and in full working order.

Make an offer and proceeds to SGP, Please call Michelle on 9243 5369.

CLASS PROJECTS GIVING GIBBONS A HAND

Recently we have had three groups making inquiries about 'How' they can help the Silvery Gibbons in the wild, what do we do and how do we do it. Thanks to Yr8 students at Duncraig Senior High School, the Civics class at Carmel Primary school, and the Yr8's at Mandurah Catholic College.

Thank you for your interest, concern and assistance.

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT DIARY COME ALONG, ALL WELCOME PLEASE MARK YOUR DIARY TODAY

<p>SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH SATURDAY JANUARY 3RD SATURDAY FERUARY 7TH</p> <p>KALAMUNDA VILLAGE MARKETS DO YOUR XMAS SHOPPING WITH SGP SGP HAVE GIBBON GOODIES TO SELL</p> <p>NEW COLOURS IN T'SHIRTS, NEAT LITTLE PRINTS BENDY TIGERS FUNKY CARDS</p> <p>9AM TO 3PM WE WILL BE THERE, WILL YOU??</p>	<p>BASSENDAN PET PARADE SUNDAY DEC 7TH 10AM TO NOON</p> <p>SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT WILL HAVE A MERCHANDISE TABLE, PLUS WILL MAN THE SAUSAGE SIZZLE. COME ALONG JOIN THE FUN</p> <hr/> <p>MADAGASCAR COME ALONG, BRING YOUR FRIENDS GREAT EVENING PLANNED TO SHARE OUR PICTURES & STORIES OF THIS FABULOUS LAND OF LEMURS.</p> <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH PERTH ZOO THEATRE</p>
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PRIMATES HELPING PRIMATES