



SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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MAY 2006

In this issue...

The Javan Gibbon Centre is the flagship project of the Silvery Gibbon Project and the last few months has seen us actively ensuring that this is the case into the future. The visit to the Centre by Karen and Clare in 2005 and Karen's recent visit in February (see page 2), has greatly improved communication between SGP and our partner, Conservation International Indonesia. This has allowed us to share our thoughts on the future of the Centre and implement plans to move forward.

It is important to now get the funding secured for the Indonesian Gibbon Workshop planned to be held in the next few months. This will not only benefit the Javan Gibbon Centre but will lay the foundation for ensuring the silvery gibbon's survival.

Until next time...

Christina Farrington
President

Da Vinci Code—See it First with SGP!

SGP has been luckily enough to secure a screening of the Da Vinci Code—a day before the rest of the world!

The movie night will be held at the Windsor Cinema in Nedlands on Thursday, 18 May. Tickets are \$15.00 with wine and cheese from 6.00pm, and the movie commencing at 6.30pm.

For those not familiar with the story...

"While in Paris on business, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) received an urgent late-night phone call: the elderly curator of the Louvre has been murdered inside the museum. Near the body, police have found a baffling cipher. Solving the enigmatic riddle, Langdon is stunned to discover it leads to a trail of clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci - clues visible for all to see, and yet ingeniously disguised by the painter.

Langdon joins forces with a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu (Audrey Tautou), and learns the late curator was involved in the Priory of Sion - an actual secret society. In a breathless race through Paris, London and beyond, Langdon and Neveu match wits with a faceless powerbroker who appears to work for Opus Dei - a clandestine, Vatican-sanctioned Catholic organization believed to have long plotted to seize the Priory's secret.

Unless Langdon and Neveu can decipher the labyrinthine puzzle in time, the Priory's secret - and a stunning historical truth - will be lost forever."

Contact Linda for tickets on 9279 1884 (leave a message on voicemail) or e-mail lshone@vtown.com.au. Tickets have been selling fast so book now!!!

February visit to the Javan Gibbon Centre in Jakarta

Karen Payne, our Vice President, recently visited the Javan Gibbon Centre in February. Although this was only a very short trip, it was very productive.

Karen was able to see some significant improvements since the last visit to the centre a year previously. The enclosures have had new concrete floors placed which will allow better disease and rodent control. New enrichment items have been placed in the enclosures, which the gibbons love. A new outdoor cage has been built for the youngest gibbon, Moni, a female which has been there for just under a year, arriving at the centre last April. Plans are underway to allow introductions between Nancy and Jeffrey, in the hope that one day they will breed.

SGP donated a number of goods to the centre, including veterinary equipment, Moli soft toys, and enrichment items. Whilst in Java, Karen also purchased a freezer and centrifuge, as well as kitchen equipment for the centre from on behalf of SGP. These will be very useful to the centre in providing much needed space to make enrichment ice blocks, as well as storage of blood and other samples. A number of t-shirts for the staff and locals were generously donated by Kathmandu, through the help of Jon Keats.



Donations made to Javan Gibbon Centre



The JGC team—(L-R) Ida, Anton, Oceng & lip

Building of New Enclosures Approved by Committee

At March's meeting, the SGP Committee approved funding to build two much needed enclosures for Moni and Moli to move into at the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC).

We had previously delayed this making this decision while awaiting feedback from our partner, Conservation International Indonesia, as to their future involvement in the Javan Gibbon Centre and the security of tenure of the land the JGC is located on. After correspondence between us, and Karen's subsequent meeting with Conservation International during her visit in February, many of our questions have been answered. We are confident that the Centre's work will continue and have made a commitment to provide further funding to progress its objectives for silvery gibbon conservation.

Formal, written quotations were received for the enclosures and will be paid for with the donation we received from Taronga Zoo in 2004. It is hoped that the enclosures will be complete by the end of July. Supervision for their construction will be undertaken by Conservation International personnel.

We have identified that another two pairs of enclosures can be built on the site, which would allow for another four gibbons to be taken in at the Centre. However, at a cost of \$10,000 each, we still need to get more funding for these.

Autumn Art at Art Cottage

As many of you know, Hellen and Ron Stratton of Art Cottage in Cloverdale have long been supporters of SGP, particularly our Art Auctions. They have kindly allowed us to use their store to sell artworks, prints and posters throughout June. So please tell your friends and come and visit and support SGP.

Remember if you have a piece tucked in the cupboard you have been meaning to have framed bring it along—Hellen and Ron will give you an excellent quote.

AUTUMN ART AT ART COTTAGE

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT WILL BE SELLING, ALL THROUGH JUNE

SMALL AND LARGER PRINTS, A FEW ORIGINAL PASTELS,
POSTERS AND MATTED PRINTS

A SELECTION OF ANIMAL PRINTS, PLUS OTHER SUBJECTS
A SELECTION TO PLEASE YOUR EYE AND YOUR BUDGET.

COME ALONG TO 'ART COTTAGE'

218 FULHAM STREET, CLOVERDALE, Tel: 9479 3505

ANY DAY IN JUNE

MON - FRI 9AM TO 5PM & SAT - SUN 9AM TO 1PM

Nakula has his vaccinations!

Perth Zoo silvery gibbon colony's latest arrival, 10 month old Nakula recently had his second vaccination for Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Vaccination against HBV is now performed routinely on all the silvery gibbon offspring born at the zoo, in order to protect the youngsters from becoming infected with the virus which is carried by both parents, Hecla and Jury. Nakula had his first vaccination at just 3 days of age, to protect him from virus spread during the birth process.

His recent vaccination was a booster, to ensure his antibody levels remain high and protect him from infection throughout his life. Previous offspring Khusus, Regina, Arjuna and Sinta have all been successfully vaccinated against the disease, with none of these animals becoming carriers of the virus like their parents. Blood results from Nakula will soon show if the vaccination has also been successful with him.

There is still very little known about how this disease affects gibbons. In humans infected with HBV, chronic infection can cause cirrhosis and liver cancer up to 40 years after the initial infection. Vaccination is a way of preventing spread of the disease in the silvery gibbon population.

The vaccination protocol used at Perth Zoo may be able to applied to gibbons in captivity internationally, including those in rehabilitation centres such as the Javan Gibbon Centre in Indonesia, where currently 5 of the 6 gibbons are known to be infected with the virus.

Dr Karen Payne, Vice President of SGP and veterinarian at Perth Zoo, has recently applied for funding from The Morris Animal Foundation to allow further investigation of this virus in the captive silvery gibbon population. If successful, Karen's work will help to further the knowledge about the virus in this species, and in gibbons in general.

Indonesian Gibbon Workshop

We are still fundraising to ensure the planned Gibbon Workshop is held in the next couple of months at the Schmutzer Primate Centre in Jakarta. The goal of the workshop is simply to bring together gibbon conservationists and researchers in Indonesia for the first ever meeting where the conservation of gibbons is the sole topic. This is not intended to be a scientific meeting where results are presented, rather it is to facilitate dialogue between all conservationists to share information and to decide on the best courses of action for the future conservation and protection of gibbons in Indonesia. It is hoped this will then lay the foundation for an Indonesian Population Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) in the near future.

From SGP's perspective, it is hoped that the workshop will facilitate discussion between relevant parties in relation to the management and further development of the Javan Gibbon Centre. This includes developing a more comprehensive plan that incorporates both the rescue and rehabilitation of silvery gibbons, protection of habitat and gibbons and potential release programs.

SGP is currently awaiting a response to several applications to assist with funding this workshop. Many thanks to those members and Perth Zoo who donated funds specifically for the Workshop.

We have earrings & pens!!!

There has been much excitement about our new merchandise arrivals—earrings and pens. We have imported from the US designer Joseph Brinton unique gibbon earrings, available in silver and brass. Every SGP member has to have a pair of these and priced at \$15 a pair they won't be hanging around for long!

We are currently also selling a range of Joseph Brinton's earrings in a variety of animal and ornate designs including exotic animals such as cheetah, bats, giraffes, elephants, otters, meerkats, lizard and turtles, as well as a number of dog and cat designs. They are selling at \$15 and \$20. These have been very popular so be sure to get yours soon!

Another new merchandise arrival in April were SGP pens which we are selling for \$2 each. Also, don't forget our Moli toys—we are currently selling 2 for \$25.00 (order forms are available from our website—www.silvery.org.au).

If you are interested in purchasing any merchandise contact us via e-mail at sgp@silvery.org.au. Our website will be updated very soon for you to view the new merchandise available on-line.



SGP's stall at the Australian Primate Conference

Where we've been...

On 2 April we had a stall at the Rotary Family Carnival at Windsor Park in South Perth. Many thanks to Rotary of South Perth for giving us the opportunity to sell our merchandise at no cost. Also, many thanks to those members who came and visited us. We raised \$190.

Also in March and April, we had stalls at both the APAZPA and Australian Primate Conferences at Perth Zoo and raised \$802 from the sale of merchandise.